



RATE CUT FAILS TO COAX FIRMS

Report by Richard Guttridge

ONLY one firm has taken up a Dudley Council scheme offering reduced business rates since the move to boost the Waterfront at Brierley Hill was introduced two years ago.

The Dudley Business Investment Zone was launched to revive a once-thriving business area and aimed to create 1,600 jobs.

However, the borough council has confirmed that just one firm has benefitted from a cut in business rates since 2014.

The half-a-million pound scheme aimed to bring businesses to the 20,000 sq ft site in return for a cut in business rates.

But bosses at the council said other businesses were 'in the process of securing the benefits of the scheme'.

The scheme was first suggested five years ago to boost the half empty Waterfront development next to Dudley's Merry Hill Centre when it was suggested some of the Waterfront car parks could be developed as new offices and industrial units.

Firms that quit the Waterfront included banking giant Egg and Virgin Media.

Now council bosses say that focus has shifted from the Business Investment Zone to the Government-backed Enterprise Zone, which is set to be created at the Waterfront and create thousands of jobs.

Disappointing

The data was revealed by Dudley Council under the Freedom of Information Act.

The authority also said the original scheme had been hampered by a change in ownership at the nearby Merry Hill shopping centre.

A spokesman said: "There has been an internal operations group which has met on a few occasions but has also assessed applications electronically as a group."

"Originally the intention had been to have a more formal management group with Westfield but this stalled as a result of a change in ownership at the centre and initial discussions with Intu have focused to the degree on our aspirations around a Government sponsored Enterprise Zone."

Around 7,000 jobs are anticipated when Chancellor Philip Hammond signs off plans for the zone to make the Waterfront the 'high tech office hub' of the Black Country. The plans have been submitted to the Government.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "It is obviously disappointing people aren't making the most of these opportunities. But there are things in the pipeline and maybe people are waiting for those plans to come into place."

Meanwhile, some of the original offices at the Waterfront have been converted into apartments.

DEVICE TO SAFEGUARD PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA



With a Pebbell linked to a smartphone are, from left, telecare manager Karen Bridgwater with Elizabeth Orange and police officer Andy Arnold

A NEW gadget to prevent vulnerable people from going missing is being trialled in Dudley.

West Midlands Police has been working with Dudley Council to introduce Pebbell trackers, which can be used by relatives or carers of people suffering from dementia to monitor their whereabouts. The gadgets have built-in GPS to pinpoint the location of someone who is considered at high risk.

Dudley Partnerships Team have received funding to pilot the Pebbell scheme with the devices being worn around the neck using a lanyard or attached to personal belongings,

such as a bag or a dog lead. Families can text the Pebbell unit number and will receive a response which includes a map showing its location. If they call and receive no response then the device will pick up background sounds to help pinpoint surroundings.

The council has already successfully introduced the technology to some residents.

Elizabeth Orange says she has seen the benefits of the Pebbell in keeping tabs on her 61-year-old uncle, who had been reported as missing several times before receiving the device. She said: "I didn't want to stop him

going out after he was diagnosed with dementia but it was a real worry when I couldn't get in touch with him. The police had to find him after he went missing a couple of times."

"But the Pebbell is fantastic as, even if he doesn't answer his mobile, I can keep a check on where he is. It has taken a lot of the anxiety away."

Boss of social care Councillor Qadar Zada said: "The Pebbell is an innovative gadget. It can change people's lives, providing freedom to people with dementia and reassurance and peace of mind to family members and carers."

FOOTBALL

Big Sam is under fire over advice role

DUDLEYBORN England manager Sam Allardyce has been filmed appearing to advise businessmen on how to sidestep an outlawed player transfer practice.

The ex-Bolton, West Ham and Sunderland boss met people he thought were representatives of Far East interests, but were actually reporters for the Daily Telegraph.

He was recorded apparently telling them that it was "not a problem" getting around FA rules that stop third parties "owning" football players' economic rights – a controversial practice banned by the FA.

● Boss to unveil plaque – page 5

EMERGENCY

Warning due to acid spill vapour

FIVE people – including two ambulance staff – were taken to hospital after 1,000 litres of acid spilled from a lorry, causing traffic disruption in Cosely.

Residents and businesses were told to keep windows closed after the incident on Monday morning, which saw around 70 firefighters working with Environment Agency staff in Anchor Lane. Emergency services were called shortly before noon after reports of a hydrochloric acid spill.

● Incident closes road – page 8

ACCIDENT

Motorist hurt as car hits telegraph pole

A DRIVER was taken to hospital after his car smashed into a telegraph pole in Quarry Bank.

The BMW was left badly damaged after it uprooted the telegraph pole in the head-on collision in Amblecote Road.

A car parked on a nearby driveway also suffered minor damage as a result of the incident.

The driver was treated by paramedics at the scene and taken to hospital after the smash on Sunday.

Debris from the car and the fallen telegraph pole was scattered over the pavement.

INSIDE

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Historic pub being converted into flats



The Gipsies Tent Inn, Dudley

AN historic but derelict pub in Dudley, which has become a target for vandals, is to get a new lease of life when transformed into apartments.

Work is getting under way to renovate the former Gipsies Tent Inn in Steppingstone Street, which since its closure in 1980 has fallen into disrepair.

The project, delivered by a private developer, will see the Victorian building in Dudley town centre's conservation area re-roofed, windows and doors repaired or replaced, damaged bricks repaired and missing timber and render detailing reinstated.

Once completed, the owners will convert and refurbish the interior to bring the building, which sits near to Dudley Magistrates' Court, into use as apartments. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley Council's cabinet member for planning and economic development said: "This is another exciting restoration project, bringing an eyesore building on a prominent gateway to the town back into use. Despite its deterioration in recent years, the building is an important historic landmark and the work will see it sensitively restored in keeping with the conservation area it sits within.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing it brought back to life as quality homes for people in Dudley."

The external work will cost around £127,000, which is being part funded by grants sourced by the council from the Black Country Local Economic Partnership to repair and bring back into use historic buildings in Dudley town centre. The remainder will be funded by the owner who will refurbish the interior.

During work, which is expected to last eight weeks, Steppingstone Street and Greystone Street will be closed to accommodate the scaffolding.

Radiographer struck off after X-ray gaffes

A RADIOGRAPHER who made a series of errors at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital – including giving an X-ray to the wrong child and forgetting to put an arm brace back on a patient – has been struck off.

Health bosses took action over Blessing Chabvumurambo after her failings were brought to light.

The radiographer had previously been given a final warning after performing an X-ray on the wrong child in July 2012.

A Health and Care Professions Council hearing was told she took only partial identity checks before taking the child in for X-ray. She then received a call asking why the actual patient waiting to be seen had not yet been treated.

Almost a year later, in April 2013, the radiographer made another serious gaffe when an arm brace which was removed from a patient with a fractured wrist was not returned after going for X-ray. Mrs Chabvumurambo left for the day without re-attaching it.

Mistakes

On the same shift, she produced an X-ray image which was not of diagnostic quality – and then did not carry out the required X-ray or mention it when she finished her shift, the panel heard.

The radiographer was struck off for 12 months after experts decided she was not fit to work in hospitals as they could not be confident she would not make more mistakes.

The panel said she had 'failed to identify in what way she has addressed her lack of competence and how the failings would not be repeated in the future'.

Mrs Chabvumurambo, who did not attend the hearing, had worked for the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust since 2010 until she resigned in June 2013.

Following the hearing, panel chair Jennifer Rogers said: "The panel was of the view that Mrs Chabvumurambo's fitness to practise remains impaired. She has yet to demonstrate that she has remedied the failings that were identified by the previous panel."

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust declined to comment.

Family firm closing after 55 years



County Wallpapers has become a Sedgley landmark, occupying a former cinema and drill hall

ONE of Sedgley's oldest and most distinctive shops will close its doors for the final time this weekend.

County Wallpapers, in Dudley Road, is shutting after 55 years of trading in the village.

Owner Deborah Evans is retiring from running the wallpaper and paint specialists which was started by her father Debney Fuidge in Droitich in 1951. The business moved to Sedgley in 1961 in the former Picture House cinema, re-named Wallpaper House.

Mrs Evans, whose husband Trevor retired from County Wallpapers 15 years ago, said that this weekend will be the final days of trading for the shop, which was open seven days a week.

She said that the building had been sold to Dudley business Furniture for the Home, which currently trades online and plans to make the old cinema its showroom. It is due to open before Christmas.

Mrs Evans said it was sad to be closing the family business, but three of the members of staff were also retiring and only two would be seeking new jobs.

"It has come to the natural time to stop. It is the end of an era, but the time is right," said Mrs Evans. "I wish the new people, who are local as well, every success."

Mrs Evans said they had received a touching farewell presentation from Dulux for whom they had been an advice centre for years.

Showroom

Dangerous wrong-way driver sent to prison

A BANNED motorist drove into trouble when he was spotted at the wheel of a car in an area of Sandwell from which he was banned, a judge heard.

He later drove on the wrong side of the road and the wrong way around a roundabout to evade capture.

Klinton Sulag, from Tividale, was in breach of an Anti Social Behaviour Order when spotted in Smethwick.

He ignored an order to stop by police officers and accelerated away from the patrol which saw him in Suffrage Street on August 17.

The VW Golf driven by the 23-year-old was seen the following day on Oldbury Ringway, said Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting. Sulag suddenly threw the car into reverse as a police officer walked towards the stationary saloon.

The defendant made a U-turn, crossed the central reservation and drove off at speed, breaking the 30mph speed limit, driving on the wrong side of the road and the wrong way around a traffic island.

He was arrested after being spotted walking along the side of the road soon afterwards. The Golf was found nearby.

Miss Jodie Smith, defending, said: "The driving fell well below the expected standard but thankfully no injury was caused."

Sulag, from Poplar Avenue, admitted dangerous driving, driving whilst disqualified and breaching the terms of an Anti Social Behaviour Order.

He was jailed for 15 months and banned from driving for a further three years.

Travellers move after injunction

A TRAVELLERS' camp in Wordsley Park has been moved after a council injunction was served.

About half a dozen caravans descended on the beauty spot just off Lawnswood Avenue and were moved on some four days later, last Thursday afternoon.

Councillor Paul Brothwood said: "It is local communities that are left with the bill for removal of waste. Unauthorised traveller sites should be made a criminal offence, which would allow swift action and act as a deterrent. It's just not fair on local residents. The council is not flush with cash and it becomes very costly. They're trespassing on property which they shouldn't be on."

Travellers were also recently moved from Turner's Lane, Amblecote.

Metal legends Iron Maiden play Brum

HEAVY metal veterans Iron Maiden will visit Birmingham Barclaycard Arena next year. The Book of Souls tour visits on May 21 and tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday). Iron Maiden had a UK number one single in 1990 with Bring Your Daughter To The Slaughter.

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Pervert is jailed after grooming teenager

A 33-YEAR-OLD pervert from Dudley who had sex with a girl aged 14 several times has been jailed for more than seven years.

Stuart Edmonds groomed the teenager with text messages before inviting her back to his flat in Dudley in January 2015, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

They had sex on up to ten occasions before the girl finally told her mother what was going on, said Mr Stuart McCartney, prosecuting.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said the offences were committed after the defendant turned to drink and drugs following a split from his partner.

Text

Edmonds, now of no fixed address, admitted three specimen charges of sexual activity with a child.

Judge Amjad Nawaz jailed him for seven and a half years. He told Edmonds: "You sent text messages while grooming her. The age gap was substantial and you are a dangerous man."

He ordered that Edmonds be monitored for four years longer than normal after being regarded as suitable for release by a parole board.

The defendant was also made the subject of a Sexual Prevention Order and was put on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

Scissors threat to bank cashier

A THUG threatened a cashier with a pair of scissors during a robbery at a branch of Lloyds Bank in the Black Country.

The crook struck at the bank in Cradley Heath at around 10.20am on September 20. Brandishing a pair of scissors he demanded money from the cashier at the High Street branch.

Kate Baker, for West Midlands Police, said: "A man demanded money from a cashier before fleeing with a quantity of cash."

A Lloyds Bank spokesman said: "We can confirm an incident took place at our Cradley Heath branch. As a police investigation is ongoing, we are unable to comment further."

Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Proposals for 18 homes at Stewkins

EIGHTEEN homes are set to be built off the main A491 in Stourbridge. The plans are for the two-bedroom homes in Stewkins, Audnam. The proposals will now be assessed by planners at Dudley Council.

Tributes to referee who reached the top



Whistle in hand, cup final ref Ken Burns

FROM Buffery Park in Dudley to the European Cup at Bayern Munich's Olympiastadion München less than 20 years later – Black Country referee Ken Burns was a football official who rose to the very top of his game.

He is also believed to have been the youngest league referee, officiating a game at Mansfield Town's Field Mill aged 30.

The 85-year-old, who retired from officiating in 1978, has died following a battle with cancer. He lived in the Stourbridge area all his life.

He served for 17 years as a football

league referee and nine years at international level.

His brother, Peter Burns, said: "He liked to see fair play, he always wanted to let sides play without the constant blowing of the whistle."

"He wanted the crowd to be entertained but, of course, being a referee, there was sometimes controversy."

Ken was born in Dudley in 1931, and attended Dudley Grammar School. He played football locally for a team called Blowers Green Rangers.

He was called up to National Service aged 18 and was stationed in

Bishops Auckland, where he continued to play until injury.

Arguably the most famous game he officiated was the FA Cup Final between Leeds and Sunderland in 1973. He also officiated three European Cup quarter finals including Bayern Munich's victory against Ajax in 1973.

He was President of the Referees' Association for 10 years between 1972 to 82 and later a referee assessor for FIFA.

His brother Peter added: "He was a tremendous person who was dedicated to the game."

Scientist is making a stand against cancer

A SCIENTIST from Stourbridge, who is researching ways to improve cancer treatment, has teamed up with a national charity and TV's Channel 4 after surviving the disease herself.

Dr Beth Lucas, aged 27, was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma at the age of 24, while in the final year of her PhD at the University of Birmingham.

Working with Professor Graham Anderson and Dr William Jenkinson at the University of Birmingham, Beth's research receives support from the Stand Up To Cancer campaign. It seeks to benefit patients who need bone marrow transplants as part of their treatment.

Beth, who is in remission, is aware that she may need a bone marrow transplant if her cancer returns. She first noticed something was wrong in September 2014 when she discovered a lump near her collarbone. She said: "It felt a bit like an olive under my skin but you couldn't see it. I had no other symptoms except for itchy skin, which at the time I'd attributed to an allergy. I became concerned it might be lymphoma."

"Once the initial shock was over, I tried to put a brake on the emotions because I knew I had to get through whatever was needed to save my life."

Chemotherapy

Beth was treated with chemotherapy for four months, leaving her tired and nauseous and resulting in hair loss. The treatment weakened her immune system, which meant she was highly susceptible to infections.

"In addition to coming to terms with my diagnosis, I also had to think about my future fertility," said Beth. "I always knew I would want to start a family at some point and was given the opportunity to freeze eggs or embryos before starting chemotherapy. It was suddenly a critical decision that needed to be made quickly."

After completing her PhD, Beth went on to work as a post-doctoral research fellow under Prof Anderson, looking at ways to boost the immune system following stem cell transplantation. Their work is supported by Stand Up To Cancer, as well as the Medical Research Council.

"I'm passionate about wanting to make a difference in medical research," said Beth. "Being a patient myself has reinforced the importance of the research we're doing."

Launched in 2012, Stand Up To Cancer has raised more than £25 million towards innovation in cancer treatment. Channel 4 will devote an evening of live TV coverage to the campaign on October 21.



Cancer survivor Beth Lucas is researching the disease with Professor Graham Anderson in Birmingham

Groups urged to apply for funding

AN MP has urged Black Country groups to apply for funding from two new schemes.

The £1.5 million Postcode Local Trust has opened a new round of applications for environmental projects. Meanwhile, Aviva has launched a community fund that can award up to £25,000 for local community projects.

The Aviva funding is available

for projects across a range of categories including supporting the elderly, health and wellbeing and community sport.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has written to a number of groups in the borough to make them aware of the opportunities. He has offered to support local bids for funding.

Mr Austin said: "Black Country people are the most generous

in Britain, so we have lots of brilliant local community groups and charities."

"Working with local groups we've managed to get funding for sports clubs, schools and parks. Applying for one of these funds could help get a new project off the ground, so I'm ready to throw my support behind any local groups who are interested in making a bid."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wolves skipper to open new market

WOLVES captain Danny Bath will open a new Sunday market in Dudley town centre this weekend.

The Brierley Hill-born defender will launch the outdoor market along with Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif. It will be held on the Flood Street car park for the first time this Sunday.

Stalls will be open every Sunday from 10am to 4pm and will include a variety of produce, clothing, crafts and antiques.

Bath, aged 26, has made nearly 150 appearances for Wanderers.

Plan to demolish pub for housing

A PUB in Sedgley will be knocked down under new plans which would see eight homes being built in its place.

The Leopard Inn, on Dudley Road, will be bulldozed if the plans get the backing of councillors. New properties would be built on the site of the pub and its 46-space car park.

Three sets of semi-detached houses would be built facing Dudley Road while other properties would be created looking onto Valley Road, under the plans submitted by Ling Developments to Dudley Council planners.

Scarycanary date for Bluetones man

A SINGER-SONGWRITER who fronted a popular 1990s band will be performing in Stourbridge next month.

Bluetones frontman Mark Morris will be taking to the stage of Scarycanary The Venue, on High Street, on October 1.

New songs and Bluetones favourites will be performed on the night. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £10. Doors open 7pm. To book visit www.wegotickets.com/event/367523

Coffee and cake with MP to help Macmillan

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood will be taking part in The World's Biggest Coffee Morning event to raise money for cancer charity Macmillan.

The event will take place at his new constituency office in Wordsley, 111A High Street, tomorrow (Friday), running from 10am to 2pm.

It is being held as part of Macmillan national awareness campaign which is run every year. Turn up on the day to take part and make a small donation for a coffee and slice of cake.

Backstage help needed

A THEATRE group needs backstage help for its next production.

Trinity Musical Theatre Company will be staging The Witches of Eastwick in the Mill Theatre at the Dormston Centre, Sedgley, in November.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



HOW low interest rates work. A friend foolishly forgot to take a bag to the supermarket and had to buy a plastic bag for 5p. He suddenly realised 5p was exactly the monthly income on his savings account.

THERE is a cynical old saying in journalism that bad news is good news. For Remoaners, however, it works the other way: good news is bad news. And this week's think-tank report showing Britain is doing fine after the Brexit vote is the worst of all news. The bad-loser tendency is now clutching to the straw that, if Armageddon has not yet happened, it will soon, just you wait and see. As one contributor to the Guardian website puts it lyrically: "What is their world if it does not have a sky that is forever imminently falling?"

WE were in Yorkshire this week to meet up with the extended family and pay tribute to a relative, Private Alvin Smith, who was killed in the Battle of the Somme exactly 100 years ago, aged just 20. The event was neither showy nor maudlin, just the laying of a posy and a photograph at the village war memorial. And if 100 years seems a long time ago, consider this. The population is growing older and the number of centenarians increases by hundreds every year. Believe it or not, there are more than 14,000 British people alive today who were alive in September 1916 when Private Smith was alive. Not so long ago, after all.

OUR trip to Yorkshire caught one of those wonderful Indian summer weekends. The Dales shimmered in the heat and canalside Skipton was as pretty as a little Venice and nowhere near as smelly. We stayed in a cottage by a swing-bridge on the Leeds & Liverpool canal and sipped chilled wine in a grime-stained stone courtyard as the narrowboats bumbled by. What is it about boats? The moment people climb aboard they start waving at other people. If you were both on solid ground and this close, folk would think you mad. But bring a boat into the equation and the waving begins. Coosey! Most odd.

A REVIEW carried out by the BBC shows that its journalists are paid up to 40 per cent more than those working for commercial competitors. No surprises there. The rivals have to earn their money while Auntie Beeb gets an annual bung of £4,000 million from the public purse. It's easy to be generous with other people's money.

THERE were too many idiotic driving moments to report them all but for sheer style the lorry driver who stopped, swung his wheel over and performed a three-point turn on the Skipton by-pass, blocking both lanes as the traffic slithered to a halt.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Public transport pervert is jailed

A PERVERT who took pictures up the skirts of women after cornering them on trains and buses has been jailed for four years.

Robert Osbourne was branded a danger to the public and will be closely monitored on his release from prison.

The 41-year-old had a string of previous convictions before launching his latest wave of offending, Wol-

verhampton Crown Court heard. He struck five times in seven months taking photos on each occasion and grabbing the thigh of one of the victims, said Mr Simon Burch, prosecuting.

The first offence occurred after the defendant boarded a bus at Dudley Bus Station on November 26, 2013. Osbourne struck again during a train journey to Cradley Heath and on a

further occasion took the photograph after following a woman into a block of flats in Birmingham.

On May 9, 2014, he befriended a woman on a bus from Birmingham to Brierley Hill, sat next to her and pushed his hand up her skirt. Then he targeted a woman on a train at Snow Hill, Birmingham, on June 11.

Osbourne was finally traced through the distinctive jacket worn

while committing the first offence that revealed he belonged to a particular biker club.

Mr John Evans, defending, conceded that the previous convictions of Osbourne stretched back almost 20 years.

The defendant from Ashenhurst Road, Dudley, pleaded guilty to one assault and four sexual assaults and was sent to prison.

Thief jailed after bid to sell stolen Xbox console

A PROLIFIC thief caught red-handed trying to sell stolen property has been locked up for 20 months.

Lee Bastable offered an Xbox for sale to staff at a shop in the Merry Hill Shopping Centre on March 21, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

When the games console's serial number was checked it was found to have been stolen during a break-in at a house three days earlier and the police were called, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The 33-year-old defendant was arrested and a search of his home unearthed electrical equipment taken during another burglary.

In addition, Bastable was later identified through CCTV footage taken at a store in Blackheath on February 16 where he unsuccessfully tried to sell a laptop and camera that had been taken in a burglary earlier the same day.

Screwdriver

The defendant had also been seen on January 31 attempting to break into a house in Beeches Road, Blackheath, using a screwdriver found in a garden shed.

He gave up and fled after realising he had been spotted by a neighbour who later identified him as the culprit.

Bastable, of Frederick Court, Highgate Road, Walsall pleaded guilty to handling stolen property and to attempted burglary and was jailed by Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey.

MP's thanks for foodbank gifts

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has thanked kind-hearted Black Country folk for their 'stunning' donations to foodbank collections that he helped organise.

People handed over 538.5kgs of food and 18.5kgs of toiletries to Black Country Foodbank volunteers at the Tesco Extra store at Burnt Tree.

All collections will go towards helping families who are struggling.

Mr Austin worked with foodbank volunteers and Tesco staff to organise the collections, which will take place twice a year.

The next collections for the Black Country Foodbank will take place in May 2017.

Mr Austin said: "What a stunning response from kind-hearted, community-spirited Black Country folk."

Local history day at the borough archives

A LOCAL history day is being held at the Dudley Archives and Local History Centre on Saturday from 10am to 4pm with free admission. There will be displays by family and local history societies from across the Black Country at the Tipton Road centre.

By Judith Hawkins

THE 5p plastic bag levy is enabling thousands of pounds to go towards two Dudley Council nature reserves and a community garden project.

Saltwells Nature Reserve, Fens Pool Nature Reserve and the Growing our Community Together project will each receive a minimum of £8,000 under the Tesco Bags of Help initiative. It's being run by the supermarket and charity Groundwork.

Shoppers can boost the amount for each project to £10,000 or £12,000 by voting in participating Tesco stores.

The money will be used to create a new sculpture trail at Saltwells Nature Reserve and to make improvements to footpaths and signs around the Buckpool at Fens Pool Nature Reserve.

Orchard

Growing Our Community Together, which is a mutual collaboration between Brockmoor Primary School and the Friends of Marsh Park and Lawyer's Field.

It will utilise the money to create a community garden and orchard with new fruit trees, as well as a new learning zone for school pupils.

People can vote at the Cradley Heath Extra store and the Rowley Regis Express store for the sculpture trail. They can also vote at Tesco stores on Bromley Lane, Moss Grove and Kingswinford High Street for the community garden or the Fens Pool project.

Voting is open in stores using checkout tokens until October 9.

Councillor Hilary Bills, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We're thrilled that our bids have been successful and we're asking the local community to vote for us, so that we can make these exciting improvements to our much loved green spaces."

War hero meets youngsters at school



Iraq war veteran and fundraiser Karl Hinett visits Old Park Special School and shows pupil Dominic an Olympic torch

A BLACK Country war hero brought a smile to the faces of youngsters during a visit to a special school.

Karl Hinett brought his Olympic torch along to Old Park Special School in Brierley Hill, which he carried in the run-up to London 2012.

Karl, from Tipton, suffered 37 per cent burns to his hands, limbs and face after his tank was petrol-bombed in Iraq in 2005. He has since gone on to take part in a range of fundraising events and visited the school to talk about his experiences.

School leaders were also keen to show pupils people can still achieve their dreams despite suffering adversity.

Teacher Rose White said: "We wanted him to come in

following the end of the Paralympics as he has carried the torch for both the Olympics and the Paralympics and we asked if he would bring his torch with him.

"One of the children asked him how long it has been since he was injured and what the weight of the torch was.

"The main ethos of Karl coming in was 'you can do it' and that you can overcome anything."

Since leaving the army Karl has dedicated much of his time to fundraising for the charity at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, completing several races, including in the Alps and Bavarian mountains.

And Karl's visit went down a treat with the pupils at Old Park.

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Spooky fun at libraries with prizes for families

FAMILIES can enjoy two free Halloween trails with bonfire night prizes up for grabs.

The events will be taking place during half term, from October 22 to 31.

A spooky trail will be available from Netherton and Brierley Hill libraries to lead families around the two town centres.

Youngsters who solve the clues can put their completed forms into a prize draw and a winner will be picked at each library.

Netherton Library holds the Halloween trail on October 28 when there will also be storytelling at 11am and themed craft activities throughout the day.

The Brierley Hill trail is on October 29 with the stories and craft activities taking place from 1pm.

The winners will get a family ticket for the Himley Hall bonfire and fireworks show, worth £23 plus free parking.

Youngsters are asked to wear spooky fancy dress for the storytelling to add to the Halloween atmosphere.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "I hope that families make the most of this opportunity to spend time in our town centres whilst enjoying the fun of Halloween."

The bonfire family ticket prize admits up to two adults and two children up to the age of 15. Children under five receive free admission.

Visit www.discoverdudley.org.uk for further details about various family events run by the council.

Drug stench leads police to cannabis

POLICE discovered £430,000 worth of cannabis during a raid at a drugs factory in Dudley, leading to two arrests after officers followed their noses.

A total of 861 plants were found at two properties in Stourbridge Road, Russells Hall, on September 20.

A strong smell led police to the drugs, officers said.

The raid was a joint operation conducted by officers from Dudley, West Midlands Police Cannabis Team and helicopter crews from the National Police Air Service, which is based in Birmingham.

The cannabis factory was spread across seven rooms. Police officers said 48,600 watts of stolen electricity was used to cultivate the plants.

Pub joins biggest coffee morning

THE Starving Rascal pub on the corner of Collis Street and Brettell Lane, Stourbridge, will host a fundraiser as part of Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning tomorrow (Saturday) from 11am.

One in five shops are sitting empty

MORE than one in five shops in Dudley town centre are sitting empty, shocking figures have revealed.

A report from the Local Data Company (LDC) shows a slight rise from 20 per cent last year to 20.1 per cent of shops being empty. It ranks Dudley as the fifth worst 'medium sized centre' - 200 to 400 shops - in the country.

Stourbridge fairs better with a vacancy rate of 15.5 per cent while other large neighbouring towns such as West Bromwich has a quarter (24.7) of its shops empty and Wolverhampton has 21.8 per cent of stores shut, although the city is undergoing a major revamp at its Mander Centre.

Walsall is the worst of the Black Country towns for shopping with a rate of 27.6 per cent of empty

retail premises ranking it sixth worst in the entire country.

At the other end of the scale, Smethwick has only 11.4 per cent of units gathering cobwebs.

Overall in the UK the proportion of empty shops has fallen from 13.3 per cent last year to 12.3 per cent.

Ninder Johal, board member of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and former President of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "Obviously we want to see a lower vacancy rate. The High Street is going through a transformation now. It is not how it used to be because more people are going online."

"We are seeing the out-of-town-shopping com-

plexes are also struggling now, again because more and more people prefer to buy online. This isn't just about the High Street."

"But work is being done by the LEP to improve the situation, and we think it will recover. In terms of the High Street we need to come up with something that people can do and buy there which they can't do online."

Matthew Hopkinson, director at LDC, said: "Growth slackened significantly in the half year leading up to the referendum at the end of June, taking the steam out of the gentle improvement by 2.3 per cent since 2011. Since the end of June we have seen the vacancy rate in leisure outlets inch upwards."

England boss will unveil tribute to football hero

DUDLEY-BORN England manager Sam Allardyce is set to unveil a blue plaque commemorating Dudley footballing hero Duncan Edwards.

The ceremony is due to take place at the Pavilion in Priory Park, Dudley, on Saturday. Duncan Edwards lived on the Priory estate and signed for Manchester United as a teenager.

He became the youngest player to play in the Football League First Division and then the youngest England player since the Second World War.

His life was tragically cut short as a result of injuries sustained in the Munich Air Crash in February 1958. The disaster claimed the lives of 23 people, including seven of Duncan's team mates from the celebrated 'Busby Babes' team.

Sam Allardyce, known as 'Big Sam', was born on the Old Park Farm Estate, Dudley, and spent his youth playing for Dudley Town before training with West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers. He carved out a career as a professional footballer and team manager before being named England manager earlier this year.

He said: "On behalf of The FA and England, it is a great honour for me to be asked to take part in such a noteworthy occasion. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces as we commemorate one of English football's greatest ever players."

Funds

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has worked with Councillor Dave Tyler, of Dudley Council, and residents to honour Duncan Edwards with the plaque at Priory Park. Funds for the plaque were provided by Manchester United, Wolves and Albion plus local residents and football fans. The plaque has been designed by Dudley artist Steve Field.

Mr Austin said: "For anyone like me, who grew up in Dudley, the name of Duncan Edwards is synonymous with the town and your childhood - your school competed for the Duncan Edwards Cup and you saw the stained glass windows at St Francis's Church. We are grateful for the generous donations from local people and Manchester United FC, Wolverhampton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion to enable local hero Duncan Edwards to be commemorated with a blue plaque."

The football legend is also honoured by Dudley with a statue in the town centre.

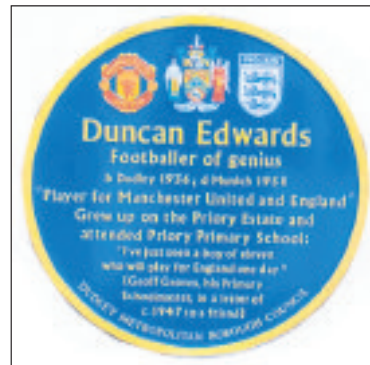
Meanwhile, big names from the world of football will be at the star-studded Duncan Edwards Charity Gala at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Saturday evening, on what would have been the footballer's 80th birthday. Special guests are set to include Bryan Robson, Norman Whiteside and Bob Taylor.



England manager Dudley-born Sam Allardyce will be unveiling the plaque in Priory Park, Dudley



Duncan Edwards would have been 80 on Saturday



The blue plaque celebrating Duncan Edwards

NEWS IN BRIEF

Claughton class of '76 in reunion

FORMER pupils of Sir Gilbert Claughton School in Dudley are getting back together for a 40 year reunion next month.

The Class of '76' are meeting up on Saturday, and it will be the first time many of them have met up since they left the secondary school four decades ago. The school in Blowers Green Road closed in 1990.

Anyone who was in the same year group as Malcolm Braham or Jackie Day should contact Paul Floyd on 07941 439231 to find out about the place and time for the event.

More than 200 homes for site

MORE than 200 homes will be built on a derelict industrial estate at Rowley Regis after plans to renovate the area were backed by councillors.

Empty warehouses will be bulldozed at the Excelsior Industrial Estate, off Cakemore Road, Rowley Regis, and homes and businesses built in their place.

Up to 209 homes will be created at the 8.7 hectare site, which is less than 100 yards from Rowley Regis train station, after members of Dudley Council's planning committee unanimously backed the proposals.

Poison pair are to haunt house

HADEN Hill House will be turned into a haunted house this autumn when theatre company Don't Go Into The Cellar performs at the venue.

On October 13 The Friends of Haden Hill Estate has invited the theatre company to return to Haden Hill House with Murder by Gaslight, an audience with two of the most infamous poisoners in British history - William Palmer and Harvey Crippen. Tickets are £7 including refreshments for performances at 6pm and 8pm.

Opera Aida staged at Dormston Mill Theatre

WEST Bromwich Operatic Society will perform Aida, Verdi's opera set in ancient Egypt, from Wednesday to Saturday at the Dormston Mill Theatre in Sedgley.

Firefighter Lyndon Flavell from Penn takes the role of Radames, whilst professional singer, Tasheka Coe, of Tetterhall, takes the title role.

Tickets are £15.50 each from www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/132241 or visit www.wbos.co.uk for more information.

Call for digital help

VOLUNTEERS are sought for a Digital festival next week at Halesowen Library in the Cornbow Centre next Saturday (October 8) from 10am to 2pm, including Wii and Xbox gaming tournaments, digital music making and a animation. Over 14s should e-mail Emily.Clark@dudley.gov.uk

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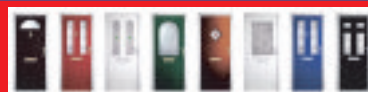
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Cyclists are saddled with wrong impression

TABLOID indignation, don't you just love it? In its big splash about the undercover sting on Sam Allardyce, The Sun's front-page headline revealed that the new England manager had mocked his predecessor Roy Hodgson over a speech impediment, referring to him as 'Woy'.

If it's true, it doesn't reflect well on Black Country lad Allardyce. But remind me, how did The Sun reveal Hodgson's appointment as England manager back in 2012? Oh, yes, that's right. In a giant front-page headline, the paper announced: 'It's Woy'.

AFTER decades of banning imports, the Argentinians have suddenly declared they are open for business and ready to trade with us.

Apparently, there is a big demand over there for our tea.

Don't know why, but I'm not really convinced the natives of Buenos Aires are ready to start their day with a mug of English breakfast tea.

They'll just change the name and claim it was theirs all along.

IN the crucible of informed and reasoned debate that is Twitter – only joking – it seems my comments about bad bike riders have led to a few angry cyclists getting their Lycra in a twist.

The best one labelled me a "trollumnist", which I thought was rather good.

Others, mostly from other parts of the country, were less erudite. Some are under the impression that I (a) dislike cyclists, and (b) defend inconsiderate driving.

They are both wrong. Actually, I thought I was on pretty solid ground because a friend, a responsible cyclist, complained about idiots who jump red lights giving him a bad name.

It's funny, but the only other time this column provoked any Twitter indignation was when it suggested there was no need to change pavement-parking laws.

I didn't think that was controversial either, but again, it was militant cyclists who got the hump.

Looking at the Twitter profiles, it seems pedal-pushers fall into two categories.

The vast majority are ordinary people who simply enjoy their hobby and want to get along with other road users.

Then there are those angry-looking men in big goggles who don't see cycling as a hobby, but as a cause, a movement.

Their Twitter feed is packed with photos of errant van drivers and traffic-management schemes. They don't seem to be enjoying themselves.

I think the gist of their message is that cycling is virtuous, to be encouraged at all costs, and that there are never bad cyclists, only bad drivers.

I've seen a fair few of both over the years, and don't have much sympathy with either.



With a Heart of England in Bloom award is Halesowen in Bloom chair Eve O'Connor



All smiles as Halesowen in Bloom win the Gold-Urban Community award

Flower power blooms with awards galore

It's a time for celebrations for the golden stars of the Heart of England competition, as Judith Hawkins reports

SO many towns, parks and pubs in the Black Country are celebrating floral success, the region should perhaps be renamed the Blooming Country.

No less than a dozen places star in this year's Heart of England in Bloom competition.

Towns and pubs in Staffordshire and Worcestershire also picked up gongs at the event hosted by Walsall Council.

There were a total of 220 delegates from villages, towns and urban communities attending the presentation in the Church Rooms of the Parish Church of Aldridge.

Also there were 43 entrants in the hotel and pub grounds category and 18 from parks, cemeteries and crematoriums.

Effort

Chairman of Heart of England in Bloom, Roger Bache stated "Entrants give a lot of time and effort to make where they live and work a nicer, safer place to be and are very proud when they receive their prestigious awards."

Heart of England in Bloom is the regional element of the Britain in Bloom Campaign organised by the Royal Horticultural Society, RHS, which encourages communities to work together to improve and enhance their local environment.

For the second time Halesowen was among the gold award winners.

Eve O'Connor, chairman of Halesowen in Bloom, hailed the help of community volunteers in Halesowen's bid to securing the top prize. She said: "Everybody put a lot of hard work into getting the award, and a lot of vol-



Aldridge goes through to the Britain in Bloom finals after getting gold

unteers contributed to getting the gold by doing all sorts of jobs throughout Halesowen to ensure we achieved the mark.

"Volunteers constructed a 20ft narrow boat, which will now reside in the town for a number of years for people to enjoy. It was a blooming show stopper for us."

"It was a community competition, everyone worked together and it was like glue, bringing everybody together."

Meanwhile it was double success for Stafford in the parks category. Victoria Park

claimed a silver while Stonefield Park earned a silver-gilt.

Borough councillor Mike Smith, cabinet member for leisure, said: "This is a fantastic achievement. A tremendous amount of hard work is put in to ensure our parks rank among the very best in the country."

Among the other winners in the villages, towns, urban communities and cities categories was Aldridge which was named winners in its respective categories.

Gold winners included Bridgnorth, Brown-

hills, Halesowen and Stone. Silver-gilt honours went to Lichfield, Bloxwich, Colwich & Little Haywood, Darlaston, Great Haywood and Willenhall. Amblecote and Wednesfield both took home silver awards.

In the parks, cemeteries and crematoriums categories, Bridgnorth Cemetery and Castle Grounds also in Bridgnorth both earned a gold, alongside the success seen in Stafford.

There was a long list of winners in the hotel and pub grounds category.

Golds went to Lime Contemporary Indian Cuisine in Sedgley, Hogarths Stone Manor in Kidderminster, The Billiard Hall in West Bromwich, The Bloxwich Showman, The Britannia, Rowley Regis, The Clifton in Sedgley, The Lamp Restaurant & Bar in Wednesbury, The Moon Under Water, in Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth's The Old Castle Inn.

The Red Lion in Little Haywood and The Royal Tiger in Wednesfield celebrated silver-gilts, while The George Hotel in Bewdley was awarded a silver.

Proud

Following the Heart of England in Bloom competition, overall winners in each category go through to the national finals, also held by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Other category winners were Biddulph in Staffordshire which won in the large town group. Birmingham City Council won in the large city band. Newcastle-under-Lyme won in the small city band. Studley in Warwickshire won in the small town group, Uttroter won in the town category.

Upton-upon-Severn in Worcestershire picked up gold in the large village category.

It has also been a proud month for gardeners, allotment keepers, and green fingered residents as hundreds had their work recognised at another awards ceremony – the Heart of England in Bloom and Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood Awards held in Ludlow.

Groups in Albrighton, Shrewsbury and Telford bagged recognition among the 142 groups and projects across the Midlands.

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Lack of a response over bowling greens

IN September 2015 the green care department informed members of the only two flat green bowling clubs in the borough, that their fees for the 2017 season – due to ‘cutbacks’ – could be rising by anything between 700 to 1,000 per cent.

The clubs responded by suggesting, that if the bowling green could be ‘loaned’ to them on a ten year tenure and a peppercorn reservation fee, they would be responsible for repairs and maintenance of the green.

This was welcomed by the officers and numerous councillors, as it meant

that a council asset would be maintained in an excellent condition at no cost to council funds.

Since then there has been no official acceptance or refusal from the council. There was a suggestion that the present arrangements could be kept as they were but it did not take into account that some preparatory work needs to be carried out before the autumn maintenance work is commenced and the council have no funds for that.

These are some of the excuses that have been suggested to explain the delay in council responding: It is with

the legal department. Why? Loaning of the green is not against any conditions of the deed of gift. It is the Mary Stevens Trust who should make the decision. Why? The trust is a management committee and the council of the day accepted the gift and, as this council was absorbed into Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, the present council should make the decision.

It beggars belief as to why there has been no response from our supposedly ‘cash strapped’ council.

G H DOWNING
Brierley Hill

Service is important for elderly

I AM a volunteer with Age UK Dudley. My role is visiting the lonely, isolated and having a chat and a cuppa with my clients who are with the good neighbour scheme.

I have a client who I could see he was not well. I asked him to visit the doctors, he declined. I told him I was worried about him. I went to his home the following day, he told me he had made an appointment. On his visit to the doctors he was admitted that day to hospital.

My client is out of hospital and keeping well.

If the good neighbour scheme closes down who will keep a check on the elderly?

My client’s situation would have been a different story.

Who could we blame, the central Government? Don’t be silly, we are just a number.

Without funding, the services we provide will either close or downsize.

MRS J BENNETT
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Callous decision will have a major impact

I WAS disgusted to read (The Chronicle, September 8) that Councillor Asif Ahmed and his associates, the so-called representatives of the people, had given permission to convert the vacant Beech Tree House Care Home into a 22-bed house for multiple occupants (HMO) – despite widespread protests from angry residents and ‘potential crime magnet’ concerns from West Midlands Police.

I have been to numerous neighbourhood watch meetings where I have heard many tales of misery relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, noise and disturbance, drug-related problems and devaluation of neighbouring properties when pubs, shops and houses have been converted into HMOs.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the unfortunate residents in this case won the lottery and, having bought the properties surrounding Mr Ahmed and his associates, converted them into HMOs then flooded them with undesirables.

Perhaps then any inept decision makers on the council would realise what an adverse impact their callous judgements have on the lives of decent people.

DAVE JONES
Brierley Hill

All that is left of a life is a medal

PETER Rhodes’ story concerning the gathering of his extended family to remember the death of his grandfather’s brother in the First World War is, I fear, far from the norm for most who lost their lives.

I have a medal from the 1939-45 war awarded to an unknown (to me) soldier who lost his life during that war.

The medal, which is unworn, came in a box measuring three inches by two and a half inches, together with a message from the War Office which reads: ‘The Army Council has the honour to transmit the enclosed medal of service in the war of 1939-45 and share your sorrow that Pte J H Willis did not live to receive it.’

I guess that this was the fate of many who lost their lives, one useless medal and a message from the Army Council for one life that is now forgotten.

G A PETERS
Brierley Hill

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Five taken to hospital after lorry acid spill



Firefighters used specialist equipment at the scene of an acid spill on Coseley's Anchor Lane, which was closed off

FIVE people, including two ambulance staff, were taken to hospital as a precautionary measure after 200 litres of acid spilled from a lorry in Coseley.

Residents and businesses were urged to keep doors and windows closed after the spillage on Monday.

Seventy firefighters from West Midlands Fire Service worked alongside Environment Agency staff to contain the spill in Anchor Lane.

Emergency services were called at 11.38am after reports hydrochloric

acid was pouring from a tank on the lorry. A container on the HGV, which had a 1,000 litre capacity, split as the vehicle drove down Anchor Lane. Some of the acid made its way into nearby water courses.

Pedestrian

Two ambulance staff, a pedestrian, the driver of the lorry, and a worker from Amey, a nearby company, were taken to hospital as a precautionary measure.

Roads were closed as firefighters worked to contain the spillage.

Lee Baker, fire station commander

at Bournbrook and Woodgate Valley, said the five were taken to hospital because a vapour cloud from the spillage caused breathing difficulties.

Dozens of vehicles from the emergency services were at the scene as the clean-up began. The fire service's Hazmat team were using specialist equipment to deal with the spillage.

Motorists faced delays as Meadow Lane, Shaw Road and Biddings Lane were closed, affecting the Birmingham New Road and Black Country Route.

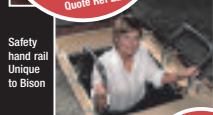
Staff from the nearby premises of Amey had helped limit the damage to the environment, added Mr Baker.

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Jail term cut for cruel and violent daughter

A CRUEL daughter who fleeced her 82-year-old father out of £17,500, and kicked and punched him during a vicious attack at his home, has had her jail term reduced.

Davina Delo, aged 48, of Ivanhoe Street, Dudley, assumed control of David Glass' finances in 2009 after the death of his wife.

After she married David Joseph Delo, 44, of Brook Street, Dudley, they moved in with her father in Telford.

Between May 2011 and June 2014, she withdrew around £17,500 from the widower's account, Mrs Justice Simler told London's Appeal Court.

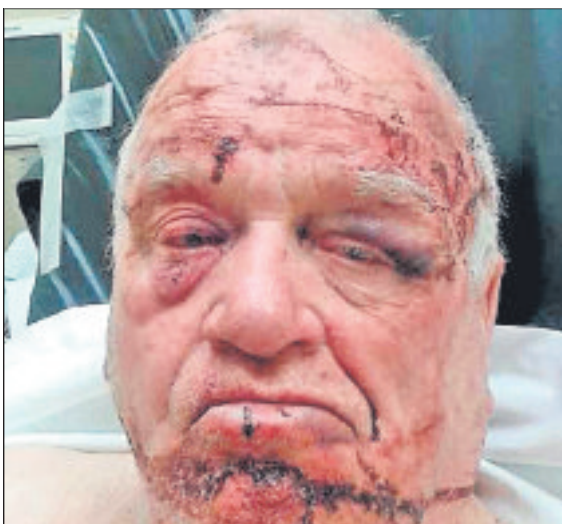
She spent the money on herself and her husband, mostly on alcohol and cigarettes. Her father's household bills went unpaid, resulting in utilities being cut off and large debts, and the house became 'shoddy and squalid'.

Funeral

In June 2014, a funeral and wake took place following the death of Davina Delo's young son, the judge said.

There was a disagreement between Mr Glass and his daughter and son-in-law and the older man went home.

After consuming alcohol the couple went home too and, after Mr Glass refused to let them back in, David Delo repeatedly punched him.



David Glass recovering in hospital after an attack by his daughter and son-in-law

Davina Delo then kicked her father to the face and head and, even after a neighbour helped him to his feet, she punched him once more.

Mr Glass said he would 'never recover' psychologically.

He left his home and went to live with another daughter.

Davina Delo admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm and fraud and was locked up for six years three months at Shrewsbury Crown Court on August 26 last year.

The judge who jailed her described her crimes as 'shocking' and pointed

to the 'systematic exploitation' of her 'vulnerable' father.

But her lawyers argued her punishment was too tough and three Appeal Court judges this week cut her sentence to five years four months. Mrs Justice Simler, sitting with Lord Justice Burnett and Mr Justice William Davis, said the sentence for the fraud offence was too long.

David Delo had been jailed for three years seven months after admitting assault occasioning actual bodily harm. Dismissing his appeal, the judge said his punishment was 'not excessive'.

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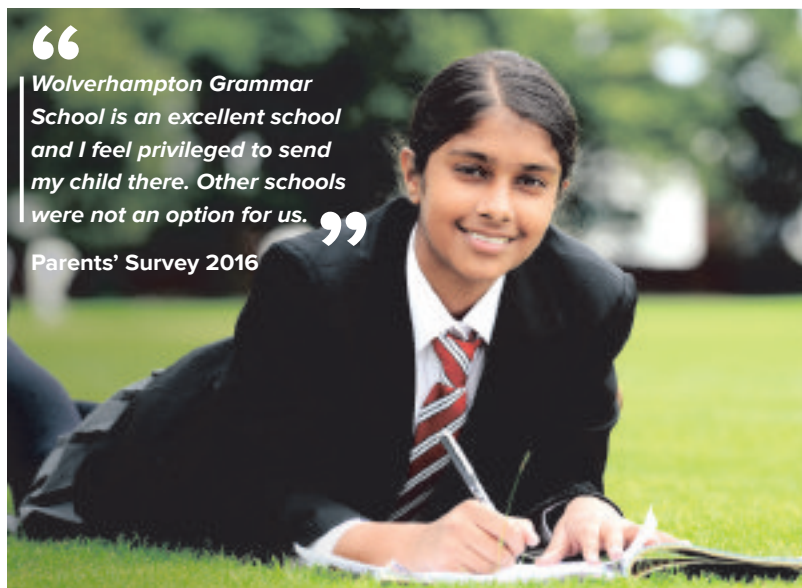
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Well-wishers go online to raise cash for victim

'WE are all astounded with the support, we can't believe people have been so kind.'

The heartfelt words of Diane Weston after support flooded in for her terminally-ill father Roy who was mugged for his pension in Brierley Hill.

A crowdfunding page set up in the wake of the cowardly attack has surpassed £450, as generous folk rally around in support of the 78-year-old.

Police are investigating the robbery after a man and woman pounced on Roy outside Pepe's hairdressers in High Street on September 12.

The page was set up by Dave Webb, who also suffers from cancer, after reading about the incident which left Roy badly shaken. Roy was robbed of his and his wife's pension after collecting it from a post office.

His daughter Diane, 49, said: "We are all astounded with the support. We can't believe people have been so kind. I would like to thank everyone for all the kind wishes, it has really helped my parents. My dad feels a lot better."

Roy was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer last year.

Money

Mr Webb, 58, who lives in Kent, decided to set up a fundraising page for Roy and plans to travel to Dudley to present the money to Roy and his family when the fundraising is complete.

He said: "When I read of poor Roy's plight online, one reader mentioned that there should be a justgiving page, so I did just that and set one up. It annoys me that people could think to rob a pensioner, let alone one who was terminally ill. The fundraising page runs for another 22 days. I'll make sure every penny is given to Roy and his lovely wife Maureen."

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Roy Weston and his wife Maureen's pension money was stolen by violent muggers

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Company believes: If a job's worth doing it's worth doing right

Family run business, D.W. Windows, is celebrating its first decade in business.

The business has grown steadily since its formation in 2006, which is mainly due to its work ethic as stated by managing director Dave Walters: "If a job's worth doing it's worth doing right".

It is now run from a head office in Coseley and has two showrooms and employs more than 30 people, including six directly-employed fitting teams. DW Windows has moved on way beyond just double glazed windows of which it offers many different styles and colour profiles, including aluminium over the first ten years in business, and also offers conservatories, doors, solid tiled conservatory roofs and much more.

Company Secretary and Dave's wife, Claire, said that her husband had 25 years experience in the windows industry and had fitted them for other companies, but realised that he could provide a better service if doing it himself.

D.W. Windows now directly employ 30 local people and Dave Walters insists on teamwork and reliability from all of his staff, which are the main reasons that they are going from strength to strength in a very competitive industry.

Claire Walters is proud to be able to say that: "At least 7 out of 10 of our enquiries come from recommendations or previous customers who want to use us again".

Our brilliant showrooms also help, as we have almost 4,000 sq. ft. of display area, with 6 conservatories, 2 orangeries, 35 doors, bifold doors, patio doors, french doors, upvc and composite doors and dozens of windows on display, all in upvc and aluminium at Meadow Lane, Coseley alone, plus much more at our Sedgley showroom in Brick Street.

The company plans to move into 2017 with a brand new website and a third showroom. The company has also just reached the finals of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce awards for customer service and outstanding achievement.

Gardener Pete digs tool donation for museum

GENEROUS staff at a Tipton firm surprised the Black Country Living Museum with new gardening tools after accidentally breaking a rake during a volunteering stint.
 H & R ChemPharm (UK) Ltd, based near the Tipton Road attraction, sent 15 employees to volunteer for gardening work with head gardener Pete Alexander over four days. During the visit green-fingered Peter had the team getting their hands dirty restoring tree squares, edging lawns and tidying flower beds.
 However, the enthusiasm from the group led to a leaf rake being broken, so a few weeks later employees showed up with a present to surprise Pete – a brand new set of tools from his ‘cream of the crop’ wish list.
 Pete said: “I had all but forgotten the incident and at the time we had a good laugh about it. I was astounded when they came in with all of tools I had been talking to them about during their visit – they got each and every single one I’d told them I needed. I can’t thank them enough, it’s such a big help to the museum.”
 Richard Starkey, marketing co-ordinator at H & R ChemPharm, added: “Pete does a fantastic job in looking after the 26 acres at the museum. A slight mishap with the rake got us talking about his tools ‘wish list’ he had mentioned to a few of us involved in the volunteering. So, with help from Tom at Bob Richardson Tools & Fasteners in Dudley, from whom we sourced a selection of STIHL hand tools, we were able to make this a reality.”
 H & R ChemPharm (UK) has been at Dudley Road, Tipton, since 1840.



Pete Alexander, centre, and museum boss Andrew Lovett (second left) with tool donors Nnamdi Amatobi, Richard Starkey and Tom Richardson

Boys behind girls after primary school

BOYS tend to be trailing behind girls by the time they finish primary school, according to new figures.
 Key Stage 2 assessments for each local authority in the Black Country show girls outperformed boys in achieving the expected standard by the time they were 11.
 Pupils tested in Wolverhampton showed the best performance locally with 52 per cent of children achieving the expected standards in reading, writing and maths, according to Department for Education figures. But the gender gap was apparent with 56 per cent of girls achieving those results compared with 48 per cent of boys.
 This year’s are the first results from the new more challenging national curriculum introduced in 2014.
 Less than half of pupils achieved expected standards in three Black Country boroughs. In Sandwell it was 49 per cent of pupils, in Dudley 48 per cent and in Walsall 46 per cent. The difference between the genders was marked. Only 43 per cent of boys attained the expected standards in Dudley but for girls it was 54 per cent. Stoke and Birmingham were joint worst locally with only 45 per cent of children getting the expected standard.

Police boss says give phone fines to the force

INCREASED fines from motorists using mobile phones behind the wheel should be given to police forces, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has said.
 David Jamieson, who as minister for road safety a decade ago first introduced fines for the offence, says the money raised should be ploughed back into road safety projects.
 He has written to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling over the issues after fines for motorists using mobile phones while driving were doubled to £200.
 He warned that the force’s attempts to enforce the law will be hindered by lack of funds and resources.
 He wrote: “I would ask that you work with your colleagues at the Home Office and Treasury to recognise that further cuts to our police force will cripple its capacity to enforce the Department for Transport’s commendable new measures.”
Enforcement
 “Furthermore, enforcement would be aided by the redirection of penalty fine proceeds to local police forces for the purpose of enforcement of road safety measures, in the same way that fines yielded from speed camera detections were between 2001 and 2010. These funds could be ring-fenced for road safety, so that offenders pay for enforcement instead of tax payers.”
 Under the stricter measures, newly qualified drivers, who have a ceiling of six points for their first two years on the road, could immediately lose their licence if they are caught.
 The tougher sanctions are being brought in amid mounting concern about a lack of prosecutions and convictions and a failure of the public to take the offence of using a mobile phone while driving seriously.
 Department for Transport says a disproportionate number of those caught using their phones behind the wheel were young, or new drivers, or both.
 The increase in sanctions comes as Ministry of Justice data for the past 10 years show the number of prosecutions have halved since 2010, with 17,586 motorists charged in 2015 compared with 35,255 in 2010. The number of convictions has also halved as have fines imposed by the courts.
 The department said that of 88 deaths caused by distractions in 2012, 17 were because of mobile use. In 2014 this had risen to 21 fatal accidents and 22 in 2015. Nobody was jailed as a result of any of those accidents.

By Rob Gollledge

MP backing German thalidomide move

A BLACK Country MP has backed a campaign for people affected by thalidomide to get fair compensation.
 The drug, which was developed by German pharmaceutical company Chemie Grünenthal in 1954, was proven to cause birth defects which affected 2,000 British babies.
 The German government has accepted that British thalidomiders are now entitled to apply for compensation but the process requires X-rays, proof of the mother’s ingestion of thalidomide and countless medical tests.
 Dudley North MP Ian Austin has signed a letter to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel calling for the process to be reformed. He said: “I welcome the German government’s commitment to compensating people affected by thalidomide here in Britain, but the difficulty of applying for compensation will mean that many lose out. I’m backing calls for an alternative application process that makes it easier to get the compensation they deserve.”

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14 Convenient way to have free flu jab

Thursday, September 29, 2016
Dudley Chronicle

Commercial feature

Local community pharmacy teams in the Dudley area have begun offering free NHS flu jabs following last year's successful national pharmacy flu vaccination scheme.

Nearly 600,000 people chose to have their flu jab administered in a community pharmacy during 2015/16.

Once again all adults aged 65 years and over, and those aged 18 years or over and in clinical risk groups, can receive a free NHS flu jab at community pharmacies across the area, often without the need for an appointment. People in at-risk groups include pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions including asthma and diabetes.

Pharmacists will be providing the same flu vaccination as those offered by GPs and patients can be assured that their GP practice will be notified that they have been vaccinated.

Feedback

NHS flu vaccination services provided by community pharmacists have shown that the convenience of pharmacy's walk in service gives the NHS benefits in increasing uptake of the vaccine in eligible groups of people and helping meet World Health Organisation vaccination targets. Patients have been overwhelmingly positive in their feedback on the pharmacy services in the past.

Community pharmacists in 7,195 pharmacies across England provided 595,467 vaccinations to patients under the national NHS Flu Vaccination Service in 2015/16. On average, 83 vaccinations were carried out by each participating pharmacy,



Stephen Noble discusses having a flu vaccination with community pharmacist Florid Ahmed

although two pharmacists greatly exceeded this by completing more than 1,000 NHS flu vaccinations each. Local community pharmacist Florid Ahmed said: "I am really excited about the start of this year's Flu Vaccination Service.

"I have been offering vaccinations and other public health services for several years and my patients have been extremely positive

about these. There is so much that community pharmacists and their teams can do to help people with their medicines and their health."

Stephen Noble, a member of Dudley Local Pharmaceutical Committee, said: "Community pharmacy provision of NHS flu vaccinations this flu season means that once again many eligible adult patients will have greater access to this service. Many people may choose pharmacy

because they are unable to attend GP clinics due to factors such as their work hours and because they can visit pharmacies in a variety of locations and without the need to book an appointment.

"Community pharmacies are the most accessible healthcare locations; we offer convenient access to medicines and a range of services without the need for an



Florid Ahmed administers the flu jab to Stephen Noble

appointment. This will be of particular value in flu vaccinations, where we can really help the NHS to meet its vaccination targets.

"In 2015/16, more than 60 per cent of all community pharmacies in England provided the national service to almost 600,000 people. This shows that patients value the convenience of being able to choose to have their NHS flu vaccination from their local pharmacy."

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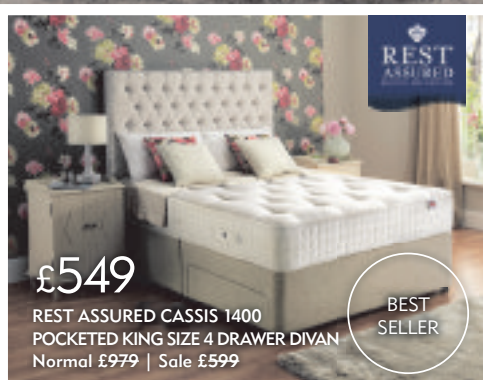
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British Gas staff facing axe given jobs boost

BRITISH Gas workers facing the axe are being supported by public bodies from across the Black Country.

In April the firm revealed proposals to close its office at Swallowfield One in Oldbury in a move that would see 684 workers made redundant. The company's call centre will close in the coming months.

Councils in Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton, and Walsall have joined forces with Jobcentre Plus and the National Careers Service to support those affected and help them find new careers. They will lead a series of events, support sessions and jobs fairs at the company's base in Oldbury.

Sandwell Council Leader, Councillor Steve Eling, said: "We have worked closely with British Gas who have welcomed all of our staff onto the site to hold workshops, advice sessions and one-to-one support for workers faced with redundancy."

"We are helping people secure future employment and training which is a fantastic for those who were otherwise facing a worrying future."

Councillor Eling added

Report by Rob Cox

the majority of staff affected by the British Gas redundancies are from Sandwell and Dudley, with the remainder from the surrounding areas.

Council staff from all four local authorities have been running a five days a week 'opportunities centre' to help staff search for jobs.

Staff have also benefited from CV building, one-to-one advice, interview preparation and training opportunities and free training has been made available, funded by JobCentre Plus.

Anyone who is affected by the redundancies at British Gas, or anybody who needs support to find a job or training, should email enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 2099 for advice.

Crews tackle blaze as car destroyed



The photograph taken by fire crews showing the extent of the blaze which destroyed the car

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a car fire in Rowley Regis which is believed to have been started deliberately.

Fire crews were called to the scene in Long Meadow, Rowley Regis, on Monday morning last week where the fire also spread to conifer trees.

A dramatic picture from the scene, which was taken by fire crews, shows the car engulfed in a burning inferno before it was left 'completely destroyed'.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "We got a 999 call at 4.32pm on Monday (September 19) to a fire at the address."

"The motor vehicle was left completely destroyed by the fire."

"It looks like the fire also spread to a row of conifer trees. "One crew from Haden Cross fire station attended. We had two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus. We used two hose reel jets to tackle the blaze."

"The incident was believed to have been started deliberately. Fire crews left the scene at around 5.15am."

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Armed police for conference

ARMED officers, road blocks and vehicle spot checks will be in place when West Midlands Police biggest security operation of the year gets under way ahead of the Conservative Party conference.

The conference runs at the ICC from Sunday to Wednesday and is expected to attract more than 12,000 delegates, but the WMP's Operation Pelkin kicked into gear this week as the force prepares for heightened security. It will see hundreds of officers on patrol in Birmingham city centre, some will carry guns, while sections of the area from the Hyatt Hotel to the library will be fenced off and airport-style security checks put in place at key entrance points.

Numerous anti-austerity protests are planned during the conference, with up to 20,000 TUC and People's Assembly supporters due to march on its first day.

The conference will see Prime Minister Theresa May set out plans for Britain.

More homes on ambulance service's abuse blacklist

THE number of homes blacklisted by the West Midlands Ambulance Service over safety fears for crews has risen sharply in the past four years.

The service says it is now pushing for tougher sentences to be handed out if its frontline staff get abused by patients and the public.

The number of black-listed addresses in the West Midlands has risen from 11 in 2011 to 79 in 2015.

Service spokesman Murray McGregor said staff members are encouraged to report attacks to the police.

"I think in the past staff were prepared to deal with the abuse and not say anything," he said.

"The rise in these figures gives an actual reflection of the abuse staff are getting. Clearly we are looking to do as much as possible to reduce attacks on staff."

"Part of that is to push extremely hard for people to be prosecuted. We urge ambulance staff to give statements to police and we then urge police to prosecute. It is then up to the courts to hand out serious sentences."

Maximum

"It is simply not appropriate that staff should suffer abuse. What we would like to see is courts handing down the maximum sentences possible because we feel people have to learn and it is no longer acceptable to attack staff."

A breakdown of the figures show that, over the years since the data was logged, there has been nearly 80 properties blacklisted in the Black Country with Dudley having the highest number in the Black Country.

In Dudley there were six listed this year including three in the DY3 postcode which covers Gornal, Himley, Sedgley and Gospel End.

Sandwell has five blacklisted addresses and Walsall two.

Mr McGregor said there could be a range of factors why addresses are blacklisted, adding: "It could mean that we do not send a female crew member. It could mean that we don't just send a single responder. We might have to send two crews and might have to have a police escort."

Helicopter in police chase

A TEENAGER led police on a four-mile chase across Dudley before being arrested.

The police helicopter was scrambled as officers hunted for a red Volvo S40 which had failed to stop on Castle Hill.

The 17-year-old, who was behind the wheel, was pursued to Darby Close in Woodcross, Coseley, where he was arrested on suspicion of stealing a car in the early hours of Saturday morning.

West Midlands Police confirmed that the teenager had been bailed pending further inquiries.

Police spokesperson Deb Edmonds said: "The vehicle failed to stop for police on Castle Hill, Dudley and was pursued to Darby Close in Woodcross where the driver was located with the assistance of the police helicopter."

Canal festival return is popular



Boaters at the biennial Parkhead Canal Festival in Dudley, attracting 70 narrowboats

HUNDREDS of people went down to the water as a popular festival returned to Dudley.

More than 70 narrowboats lined up as the Parkhead Canal Festival took centre stage once again.

The biennial event also featured a range of historic working boats, while up on dry land there were an array of vintage and classic cars.

Stalls were also set up at the canalside selling various produce.

Some festival favourites returned, including the competitive duck race, which sees visitors pay £1 for a plastic duck before cheering it on as it is shot along the water.

A horse-drawn boat was also part of the show, with mare Caroline doing the honours up on the towpath.

The festival, held along the Dudley No

1 Canal, at Parkhead Locks, has always proved popular over the years.

Visitors were given the chance to board the boats and sample some old-fashioned Black Country life. A model railway exhibition was also on display.

The festival was organised by the Dudley Canal Trust and the Worcester, Birmingham and Droitwich Canal Society and ran on Saturday and Sunday.

Chairman of the organising committee Steve Bingham estimated there could have been as many as 10,000 people who visited over the course of the weekend.

He said: "It went very well. It was packed on both days. We had 71 narrowboats here and 68 classic vehicles. We also had a steam boat go through the Dudley tunnel for the first time, so that was an historic moment."

MP in row with police boss over travellers

A BLACK Country MP has become embroiled in a row with the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner after accusing the force of not doing enough to move travellers.

Mike Wood, MP for Dudley South, said residents were fed up with travellers 'moving from site to site' across the borough and the time it is taking to get them to move.

He called on Commissioner David Jamieson to 'get a grip' and give his officers powers to act immediately.

However, Mr Jamieson has hit back at the Conservative MP, insisting the process of shifting travellers is not as simple as he suggests.

He also suggested Mr Wood speak to his own party's ministers if he wanted laws to be changed to make it easier.

The bitter exchange comes after a summer which has seen a wave of traveller groups pitch up on parks, fields, parking areas and other open spaces across the Black Country.

Car blaze at beauty spot

A CAR was abandoned and set alight at a nature reserve in Dudley.

Firefighters were called to the Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett after the Peugeot 207, which had no tax or insurance, was torched on Sunday morning.

The car was said to have been 'well alight' by the time crews from Dudley Fire Station arrived.

Police organised the recovery of the burnt-out car once the fire has been put out.

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Ocker Hill's Safety Committee in the 1960s



Safety awards being handed out in the canteen



Ocker Hill power station showing one of the on-site engines



Accident, in the early 60s, when a truck hit a wall



The capstan operator with a newly-provided safety rail

When city had its own power station

WOLVERHAMPTON used to have its own power station in Commercial Road, providing electricity not just to the city, but as far afield as Albrighton and Penkridge.

Its original two wooden cooling towers were later replaced by a single concrete tower, which dominated the Bilston Road skyline until it was knocked down in the 1980s.

A more memorable and larger local power station was Ocker Hill in Tipton, providing power throughout the Black Country. Originally opened in 1897, a new station was built on the site in 1903, and was to cover 14 acres.

It also originally had wooden cooling towers but these were replaced by three concrete ones which, together with the

MEMORY LANE

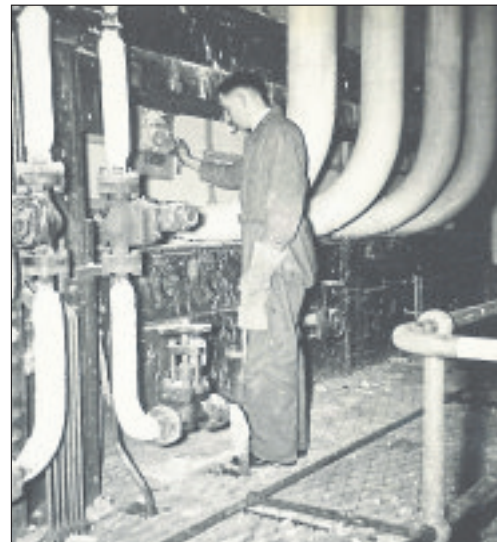
By Alec Brew

station's four chimneys, were an unmistakable feature of the Black Country's skyline.

Ocker's Hills boilers and generating equipment were upgraded and changed over the years, but it was always one of the country's most efficient stations, running at a much higher average capacity than most.

It was coal-fired, with supplies of coal being brought in by canal and by railway, with a small proportion by road.

In 1977 it was converted to a gas-fired station, and in 1985 the cooling towers were knocked down and it closed for good in 1996. Now the site is Ocker Hill housing estate.



A re-enacted site of a fall, note the safety rail lying on the floor

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Huge clean-up at park wrecked by travellers

TROLLEYS, cushions, a rug and wooden panels are among a pile of rubbish which has been left strewn over a children's play area and park by travellers in the Black Country.

A council has been left with a huge clean-up job after the mess was left behind at Brades Park in Oldbury.

The travellers had been camped on the land, off Dudley Road East, for the previous fortnight.

Rubbish has been left piled around the children's slide, while part of the fencing has also been damaged.

Further mess, including a sofa, wooden panels and bin bags filled with rubbish have been left on the other side of the field, which is regularly used by dog walkers and children.

Disgusted

Residents said it was not the first time travellers had pitched up on the land and their latest visit has led to calls for more to be done to try and stop them from getting on again.

John Evans, aged 56, who lives nearby and walks his dog on the park, said: "I am disgusted. I was gob-smacked when I saw the mess.

"It's outrageous, they have wrecked all the park for the kids and the community and it's us who will have to pay for it.

"Why couldn't they have just left it the way they found it?

"They have got to put some concrete bollards up to try and stop it from happening again."

It comes as Sandwell Council bosses are currently discussing ways to try and crackdown on the number of travellers moving onto green spaces across the borough.

Caravans pitching up on land across



The children's play area is festooned with rubbish left behind by travellers



One part of the fence around the play area which has been damaged

the Black Country has been a feature of the summer, with some groups returning to the same location having been previously moved on, leading to growing frustration among residents.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling says it is their aim to have a 'clear and robust approach' so they can act in a 'timely, co-ordinated and appropriate way'.

The authority already has a protocol for tackling travellers, but the new proposals set out changes which they hope will give them more power to remove troublesome camps.

Sandwell Council spends an estimated £250,000 a year dealing with illegal encampments and has moved on more than 1,000 caravans in the last two years.

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Flying Scotsman at Severn Valley Railway in Bridgnorth, preparing to depart



Dennis Whiteman, 86 on the day, celebrates with his wife Eileen



Trevor Horne from Handsworth looks overjoyed to be on board

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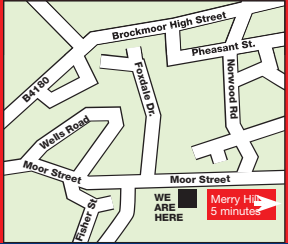



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Pudding the pirate pug guards one of the festival's boats



Ahoy! Me hearties, for Heidi Manning, who was on her pirate boat



Tipton Canal and Community Festival, which was held near Coronation Gardens



Mary Baskerville with some of her hand painted canal ware

Lots moor fun with canal festival and narrowboats

UP to 15,000 people attended Tipton's annual Canal and Community Festival recently.

The popular show saw visitors enjoy an introduction to a slice of local canal history between Malthouse Stables and Coronation Gardens, and Owen Street and Factory Locks, behind Neptune Health Park.

As well several narrowboats on show, visitors could also browse stalls and enjoy free entertainment.

Steve Downing, chair of Tipton Community Association, said the weekend event was 'marvellous'.

He explained: "It was a fantastic show - we started this year on the Friday afternoon with a car boot sale and we got a great response."

"Next year will be our tenth year doing this and every year it gets bigger and better. It's really becoming a major event in the boating calendar now."

"I think over the weekend in total we have had nearly 15,000 people come along, which was huge at its peak."

Not only did visitors enjoy an introduction to a slice of Tipton's canal history, but also the town enjoyed some fun in the sun and a bumper trading day.

Visitors also had the chance to park at Dudley

Canal Trust and travel into the centre of the show by boat.

A bonny baby show and charity dog walk took place and vintage vehicles and birds of prey were also on show at Coronation Gardens.

Mr Downing added: "We had boat traders all along the canal and other stalls from historic societies, and people from the British Legion and Cancer Research."

"It was a brilliant sight to see along with people from all over enjoying themselves."

"Overall it was marvellous and we're even planning our dates for next year and a possible road closure of Owen Street."

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Firefighters raise cash to help boy walk on his own



Fire crew commander Dominic Rose and Jim and Isabelle Southall enjoy the fundraising event at Haden Cross Fire Station

A MOTHER has paid tribute to the firefighters who organised an open day which raised more than £1,000 towards a life-changing operation for her son.

James Hughes, aged six, has cerebral palsy and spastic diplegia which means he needs help walking.

The Blackheath Primary School pupil's family have so far raised £18,000 towards an operation which will cost around £40,000.

Firefighters from Haden Cross Fire

Station organised an open day to further boost the fundraising total.

Watch Commander Temple Jones said: "It really well and there was a good turnout even though the weather wasn't great - it was raining all day."

Match

"We raised £730 on the day but will have more than that as a member of the public has come forward to say he will match half of whatever we have raised - so that takes it over £1,000."

James's mother Cheryl, 35, thanked the firefighters for their support.

She said: "It was a really good event - the firefighters' demonstrations were

fantastic. It was brilliant. We need all the help we can get with the fundraising and we still need to raise quite a lot of money."

"The day was great and James really enjoyed it, he had a great time, bless him."

The operation, a selective dorsal rhizotomy will reduce the spasticity in James's muscles, giving him more mobility.

The operation could allow him to walk without the aid of his frame.

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Engineering firm faces £12k bill over injury

A BILSTON engineering company has been hit in the pocket for more than £12,000 after a worker broke his arm in two places when his hand caught on a drill.

Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court heard that Mr Deimantas Beinoras, a 23-year-old Lithuanian national was injured while working for KV Welding Limited, which manufactures equipment for the logistics sector.

Mr Beinoras was operating a pedestal drilling machine to drill holes into some box section tubing. He was adjusting the work piece while the drill was still running when his gloved hand became entangled with the unguarded drill bit.

Training

His arm was pulled around the drill and broke two bones in right forearm.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuting, told the court that injuries could have been prevented if the drill was guarded with a telescopic guard covering the rotating drill bit.

Also if the injured person had not been wearing gloves, a suitable and suf-

By Nick Humphreys

ficient risk assessment had been completed to identify required control measures and if the employee had received proper training.

KV Welding Limited of Perry Street, Bradley, Bilston admitted failing to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of one of its employees, and was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £2,168.73 in costs.

Viran Tal, manager of KV Welding, said: "Mr Beinoras is back to work now. "It was an extremely bad injury, but fortunately he's in good health now."

"A lot of procedures have been put in place to make sure nothing like this happens again. It's the first time a bad injury has happened in all 30 years of the company's history."

Nitisha serves up own cookery book



Chef Nitisha Patel has secured a book deal showcasing delicious Indian recipes

A CITY chef is to launch a new cook book showcasing delicious Indian recipes. Nitisha Patel, from Pine Close, Wolverhampton, is working with London publishers Ryland Peters and Small to produce My Modern Indian Kitchen.

The 27-year-old has already tasted success as the face of Indian cuisine in Tesco stores nationwide. Packed with foolproof recipes which can be created at home with minimum fuss, the book is inspired by the food she enjoyed at home in Wolverhampton with her Gujarati parents and by the training she received on University College Birmingham's Culinary Arts Management course.

The book has been a labour of love for Nitisha, put together in her spare time over two years. She believes it reflects her love of food and her heritage. She said: "It is all about Indian food that is great tasting, fresh, vibrant, and guaranteed to leave your friends and family impressed too."

Nitisha is currently working as a product manager overseeing pre-prepared poultry dishes for Asda stores across the country.

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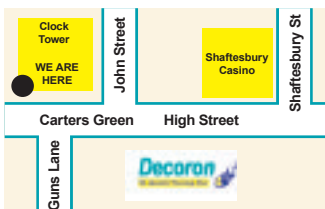
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Extra £500k will pay for urgent culvert repairs

Opera star sings with choir



Opera singer Lesley Garrett enters the Dudley concert venue with Pete Hawthorne CBE, chairman of the Gentleman Songsters

AROUND 900 people packed into Dudley Town Hall to enjoy a charity concert with Lesley Garrett and the Gentleman Songsters.

A two-hour performance was held on Saturday evening in an almost full venue, with the soprano as special guest.

TV presenter Joanne Malin was the compère for the event, which organisers of the concert described it as a 'wonderful' occasion.

Pete Hawthorne CBE, chairman of the Gentleman Songsters, said: "We hold our concerts in Dudley Town Hall, and three main ones

each year in Dudley. We invite a celebrity to perform with us every September, so we had Lesley join us this year. Celebrities like performing with us. This is her second time.

"It was a wonderful event, very successful. There was lots for praise of Lesley, the choir and Joanne Malin. Lesley still loves singing. She joined us on stage as well as performing solo. Dudley Town Hall is a great venue."

The Gentleman Songsters support the Mayor of Dudley's chosen charities and are have around 70 members.

AN extra half a million pounds is to be pumped into a scheme to prevent a brook from overflowing and flooding nearby homes.

A culvert running under Mushroom Green embankment in Cradley is at risk of collapse due to its poor condition and needs to be replaced. Environment bosses say work must start before the end of the year.

Now Dudley Council has approved additional culvert replacement work. The £496,000 cost will be met by the Environment Agency.

The council had previously been granted a total of £1.4 million towards the project, but additional funds were needed.

The decision was taken by Councillor Judy Foster, deputy leader. She said: "It is essential work that needs to be carried out."

Dudley Council will work in partnership with the Environment Agency, Sandwell Council and Severn Trent Water on what they hope will reduce the risk of a breach if a large flood event re-occurs.

Upstream

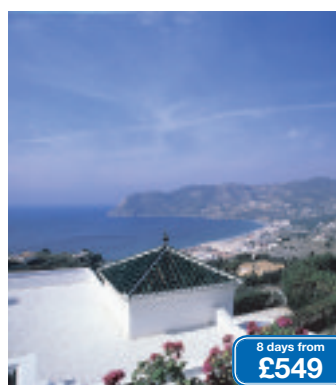
Back in 2000, as a result of culvert blockage, land upstream of the embankment flooded and began seeping through the man-made ash embankment.

The Environment Agency along with Dudley and Sandwell councils had to spend several days pumping water out.

This latest funding decision follows formal approval by the Environment Agency to fund phase one, costing £100,000.

In May Dudley Council received formal approval for the next stage, design and construction, which was originally valued at £1.3m. However, in order for it to be finalised, the scheme requires the construction of a large culvert through the embankment.

This is to support two very large cast-iron Severn Trent foul water sewers, requiring the services of a specialist civil engineering contractor. Completion has also been delayed in order to meet requirements of the Natural England Badger Licence.



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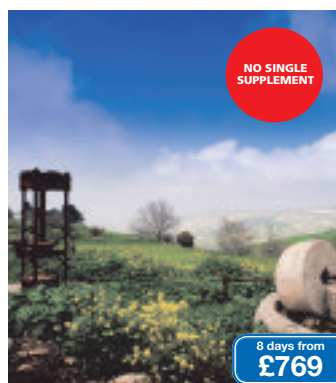
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Tips on taking the plunge in the saleroom

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



WE'VE recently seen a number of new buyers in the saleroom and sometimes they appear a little nervous when they first arrive – but there's absolutely nothing to fear, honestly!

Sometimes, bidding at your first auction can be a little daunting – but it needn't be.

The first thing you need to do is view the items you would like to buy prior to the sale, and don't be afraid to ask questions of saleroom staff, they are there to help and advise.

Check the items you like to make sure they are in good condition, look for any signs of wear or damage.

Remember that condition can be all important when it comes to the value of an item at a sale.

If you're sure you would like to bid for the items you have chosen, set yourself a price limit prior to the sale and be prepared to stick to your budget if possible... unless a real bargain is going under the hammer and you think it's worth the extra money.

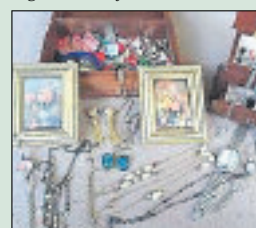
Estimates are just guidelines, sometimes a piece sells for less, sometimes for more, it all depends on who is bidding on the auction day and what they are prepared to spend.

Make sure you clearly mark your chosen items on your sale catalogue and get to the auction room in plenty of time to register, be given a bidding number and maybe have a final look around to see if anything has been added to the catalogue at the last minute that might interest you.



Then find yourself a place in the room where you can easily be seen by the auctioneer.

Remember that often sales run quickly so don't make the mistake of vanishing for a cup of coffee and a light breakfast unless you are



confident you have enough time.

Once bidding, ensure the auctioneer sees your bid and your number when you bid – and try to stick to the price you had decided upon unless you really want the item, it's easy to get carried away and spend more than you wanted to.

It's also understandable, in the heat of the moment, to bid on pieces you hadn't earmarked, which is all well and good unless you then come out of the auction and regret your actions.

You will have to pay a small buyer's premium but you can collect your items on the sale day once you have paid, check at the auction reception desk prior to the sale as to what collection arrangements are.

Ultimately, an auction can be a really exciting experience and once you've been and bought successfully you will want to go again.

Perry and Phillips Auctioneers hold sales of antiques and collectables on the first Tuesday of each month.

Valuation days, for sale items only, are held every Wednesday at the Mill Street saleroom, in Low Town, Bridgnorth, from 10am until 4pm.

The next sale takes place on Tuesday, October 4, viewing is during the weekend and Monday prior to the auction.

Whose flag are you flying with your wardrobe?



Big brands are easily recognisable

THE USA marketplace loves political merchandise and in the present race for the White House the candidates produce and sell or give away branded gear to supporters.

Campaign buttons and badges bearing political advertising date back to the days of George Washington.

In the UK we are less likely to wear 'in your face' sponsorship of our political views but we do sport many political statement T-shirts, most recently the Brexit campaign, fox hunting and human rights.

We advertise our views, likes and dislikes, we wear our personalities for all to see.

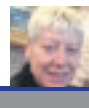
Some of the newest garments have an emblazoned written declaration or quote or a photo print of something relevant to our lives, it may be our choice in music, art our favourite pet or designer.

Our bodies are the advertising hoardings of our generation, most of the garments we wear sponsor communicate and display a company product, however subtle.

Today, when walking the dog, I wore Adidas trainers with the three stripes, Nike sweatpants with the 'Swoosh' and a Regatta

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



branded fleece with an embroidered logo, the dog has a 'Puppia' harness and I carried an iPhone, complete product placement without realising it.

Our cars, shopping bags, drinks bottles and fast food declare our brand purchases and shopping preferences and the companies we work for advertise on our uniforms and workwear.

While watching the football last week I noticed the 'Michael Jordan' basketball icon on boots worn by Barcelona footballer Neymar, a cross mixture of sport branding but instantly recognisable. Celebrities and sports personalities earn a high income from sponsorship of brands and product which in turn make the item more desirable. Andy Murray is reported to have signed a multi-million pound deal with Standard Life to join his sponsorship

with Adidas, Head and Swiss watch brand Rado. Look around you now? I can personally see a Toshiba television, HP laptop, Walkers crisps, Yankee candle, Crocs, the list is endless, the branding loud and clear. It is sometimes why we purchase a product and actually enjoy the unashamed advertising. It gives us credibility, importance and a certain style, sometimes we don't even notice it is there!

Designers aim to sell their product from an icon rather than a name, the buyer prefers a recognised symbol, something we inadvertently recommend to our peers, stylish and interesting. Unfortunately, this is why 'knock-offs' are so appealing to us. Generally, we don't take the time to notice what is wrong with our counterfeit items and they will be a small percentage of the price. It may be a variation to the logo or a similar name, it is definitely illegal but is still a form of advertising for the original company.

What are you advertising today?

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Rock salt is no healthier than regular salt



Too much salt can lead to serious health problems later on

Shaking up the myths over salt consumption



Many adults consume too much salt

AS a nation, it seems we can't get enough of our favourite white seasoning. But with UK adults reportedly consuming 33 per cent more salt a day than is recommended, is it time to break the habit?

Most of us are well aware that high blood pressure is a major risk factor for some of the UK's most common killers, such as stroke and coronary heart disease.

But are you aware just how big a role salt consumption can play in developing high blood pressure in the first place?

Even if you are clued up on this, there's still a chance you're not entirely sure how much salt you're consuming – especially if you regularly eat processed foods (things like ready-made sauces, basically many of the foods you're not preparing from scratch), which, according to Consensus Action on Salt & Health (CASH), around 75 per cent of the salt in our diets comes from.

According to recent research from low-salt alternative brand LoSalt, nearly two-thirds of people (63 per cent) are not actively reducing their salt intake – which indicates there's still a lack of awareness around the white stuff and its associated

By Sophie Cockett

health risks. So what else do you need to know about salt intake?

Here is some salt myth-busting to point you in the right direction...

MYTH: You can eat as much salt as you like

False! We need salt to survive, so cutting it out entirely is NOT the goal. However, too much of it can lead to potentially serious problems down the line.

As many as three-quarters (75 per cent) of the population don't realise that 6g is the maximum daily recommended salt intake, according to the LoSalt survey.

There's two components in salt: sodium and chloride, and it's the sodium that is doing the damage because it can lead to high blood pressure.

Although most people with high blood pressure don't realise they have it, it is responsible for around 50 per cent of heart disease cases and 60 per cent of strokes, according to the World Health Organisation.

MYTH: Rock salt is healthier than regular salt

Many people believe trendier sea and rock salts are healthier than regular salts, but this is incorrect.

Nutritionist and dietitian Azmina Govindji says: "They contain the same amount of

sodium chloride: 100 per cent! Sea salt may contain traces of other minerals, but the levels are too low to have a health benefit and so it is not healthier for you than any other salt."

MYTH: Saltless food is bland

Extra salt added during cooking makes up 20 per cent of our salt intake, notes Govindji. Granted, this might not sound like much, but it's the chunk of our intake which we're most in control of.

We might think our dinner will taste bland without a sprinkling of salt, but this isn't strictly true.

"By reducing a little here and there, you'll soon find your taste buds become accustomed to not having such high levels of salt and you'll have less need for it in cooking and for seasoning food," says Govindji.

MYTH: There are no alternatives to salt

For those who really can't go without the taste of salt, brands like LoSalt offer an alternative to the traditional white stuff. It still contains all the flavour of normal salt, but contains 66 per cent less sodium.

Also, try herbs and spices, vinegar or a dash of lemon instead to give your food the punch of flavour that salt usually would. Dill tastes great with fish, rosemary is wonderful with meat, and basil will finish off a pasta dish perfectly.

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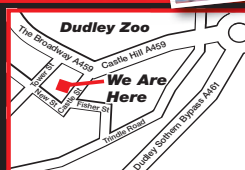
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Those signing up for an Engage account will also benefit from access to the free 'Envelopes' money management tool, which allows people to place money aside for bills and rent payments to prevent accidentally overspending.

Everyone who lives or works in the borough of Dudley and the county of Worcestershire can sign-up and order their card for free from Castle & Crystal Credit Union.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "The Engage account and card is a new service offered by Castle & Crystal Credit Union, and can even be accessed on your mobile phone.

"The card will have great benefits for local people who can gain rewards as they shop and manage their personal budgeting at the same time, helping residents money go that little bit further.

"I hope people will take full advantage of the Engage account and card."

For full details about the Engage card or sign-up for an account call 01384 815771 or visit the branch at 25 New Street, Dudley or see www.castleandcrystal.co.uk

Gala set to remember a football legend

Big names from the world of football have been added to a sell-out, star-studded gala in honour of Dudley's Duncan Edwards.

The Duncan Edwards Charity Gala will be held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on October 1, on what would have been Duncan's 80th birthday.

Special guests include former Baggies stars 'Super' Bob Taylor, Darren Moore and James Chambers, are also coming along, making it a start-studded line up of footballing names.

Edwards was a gifted footballer whose promising career was cut short by the fatal 1958 Munich air crash in which 23 people died, including crew, journalists and eight of the famous Busby Babes. Duncan was critically injured in the crash and died in hospital on 21 February, 15 days after the incident.

The charity gala is the brainchild of Rose Monk, writer, producer and award-winning documentary maker whose film 'And then came Munich' has been the bestselling sports film on Amazon for the past three years, raising thousands of pounds for charity in the process.

The proceeds of the gala will go towards The James Bulger Memorial Trust and the Mary Stevens Hospice, in Stourbridge, who are helping to organise the event alongside Rose.

Local celebrities and sports stars are invited and Duncan's cousins, as well as the Mayor of Dudley and family members of other Busby Babes will be in attendance. The evening will also include a three course dinner, performances by former Mayor's Civic Award Winners The Gentlemen Songsters and fellow winners local folk band 'The Empty Can', who penned the original Black Country Anthem, as well as a showing of Rose's documentary.



The Duncan Edwards Charity Gala will be held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on October 1

There will be a charity auction of signed memorabilia and a raffle to raise extra funds. The event will be part funded through the Black Country Festival.

Any businesses or organisations interested in sponsoring any element of the evening are invited to get in touch with event organiser Rose Monk via rosecook69@hotmail.co.uk or Amanda Bowen at the Mary Stevens Hospice via amanda@mshfundraising.co.uk or by calling 01384 377 778. Many sponsorship packages are available which can be tailored to suit.

Rose Cook, event organiser and creator of the 'And then came Munich' DVD said: "It is such

a privilege to have been able to organise this event in Duncan's memory.

"He means so much to so many people, he was a son, a friend, a colleague, a local hero and an international sports star whose life was cut short. This would have been his 80th birthday and I believe that this event will be the biggest ever celebration of his life.

"We are so lucky to welcome so many distinguished guests this evening, members of Duncan's family and those of his fellow Busby Babes, the Mayor of Dudley and a host of footballing stars. We are truly honoured at the generosity of all those attending, finding time in

their incredibly busy schedules to be here with us to celebrate and commemorate this remarkable sporting life."

James Stevens, chairman of the Black Country Festival organising committee, said: "This is shaping up to be a fantastic evening as part of the Black Country Festival calendar. There's so much to be proud of in the Black Country and in sporting terms Duncan Edwards did so much to fly the flag for this region.

"I hope people will come along and celebrate the life of such a Black Country legend."

Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Mayor of Dudley Council said: "I am honoured to be taking part in this charity gala which celebrates the life and career of someone who is still so important to the people of Dudley today.

"And as a huge Man United fan myself, I am really looking forward to this evening and meeting people who are keeping Duncan's memory alive."

Amanda Bowen, Community Engagement Officer at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "As an organisation, we are immensely proud of our Black Country and the incredible community we support through such difficult times, so to be involved in an event which will do so much good and pay tribute to an iconic Dudley figure like Duncan is a real privilege.

"It's shaping up to be a wonderful evening, and we can't wait to see everyone on the night."

To find out more about the work done by the James Bulger Memorial Trust, visit www.forjames.org

To find out more about the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk Sponsors include Dudley Council, Cllr Pete Lowe, Quill Design, Black Country Festival and Monk Events.

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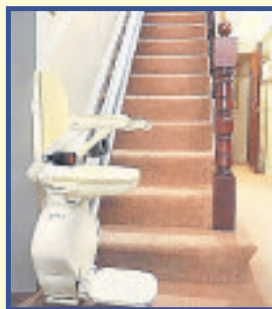
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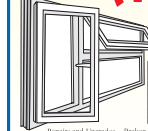
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Thousands of jobs on the way

Seven thousand new jobs are on the way to Brierley Hill through a new business and innovation Enterprise Zone which is set to inject around £600million into the regional economy each year.

The Enterprise Zone will rejuvenate the Waterfront office complex at Merry Hill and create additional office, technology and industrial space in the surrounding areas in Brierley Hill and Pensnett.

Following the announcement in the Chancellor's March budget statement, Dudley Council bosses, with partners at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, have submitted the final business case and anticipate this being formalised in the new Chancellor's autumn statement in November.

The Brierley Hill Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone, which goes under the strapline of 'Made in the Black Country, sold around the world', aims to become the High Tech Office hub of the Black Country's advanced manufacturing heartland.

As well as reoccupying 18,000 sq m of vacant office space on the Waterfront, the Zone when fully built out will include up to 110,000 sq m of new office space, 36,000 sq m of new technology space and 65,000 sq m of new industrial space. The total development is expected to deliver up to 7,000 new jobs and provide a Gross Value Added uplift to the economy of £589million each year.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic



The Brierley Hill Business and Innovation Zone is an exciting development

development, said: "The Enterprise Zone will put Brierley Hill on the national and international map as a location of choice for business and innovation with low cost and high quality office space complementing the regional expertise in advanced manufacturing.

"The Zone will also look to the future to broaden its digital and professional

base into the existing manufacturing technology."

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, Black Country LEP board member and vice-chair of West Midlands Combined Authority, said: "This is extremely exciting news for the Brierley Hill and the wider area.

"The Enterprise Zone will invigorate the existing Waterfront office complex with 100 per cent business rate discount for six years and it will also look to double the total office accommodation on offer through new builds as well as including currently vacant industrial sites to maximise the benefits on offer."

Businesses locating to Enterprise Zones get up to 100 per cent business rate discount worth up to £330,000 per business over a six-year period. They also benefit from simplified local authority planning processes and get government support to ensure superfast broadband is rolled out throughout the zone.

Advanced Manufacturing strengths in the area include material manufacturing in iron, steel, plastic and rubber along with instrumentation, process control and technical equipment.

The Enterprise Zone will aim to add to this with new industrial sites as well as providing office accommodation for business and professional services including architectural and engineering activities, software development, banking and telecoms.

To complement this, the Enterprise Zone will also feature Music Institute in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University.

This will not only allow a diversification of the work force but also technical support for the music industry including light, sound and technical stage equipment.



The Archives, situated alongside the Black Country Living Museum

Exploring town's intriguing past with Local History Day

The Archives and Local History Centre in Dudley is throwing open its doors for Local History Day on Saturday, October 1.

The free event will feature a number of family and local history society exhibitions.

Visitors can find out about fascinating life stories, view amazing photographs, ask about ancestry research advice and take part in behind the scenes tours.

There will also be local history talks, family activities and quizzes, a raffle and a free prize draw.

The centre is home to a wonderful collection of records related to the borough dating back to the 12th century.

Original archive material includes business ledgers, local authority correspondence and minutes, maps and school records.

There are over 15,000 books and pamphlets and around 26,000 images relating to the borough.

If you're interested in family history, house history or any other aspect of life and work in Dudley borough, past and present, the Archives and Local History Centre is a great place to start your research.

Help and support is always available from our staff and volunteers. Our research guides and courses can get you started on your project.

The Local History Day takes place on Saturday 1 October from 10am to 4pm - admission is free.

The centre is located on Tipton Road next to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

For more information call 01384 812770 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/archives

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Clear message: dog mess not acceptable

Dog owners in Quarry Bank are being asked to paws for thought and clean up after their pets.

Dudley Council has launched a campaign in and around Stevens Park, Quarry Bank, following complaints raised by the public.

It includes a pathway which links Thorns Road to Park Road.

The council has been stencilling the floor with distinctive warning signs to remind people of the importance of a cleaning up after their dogs.



The new stencil in use in town

Quizzed

It leaves a spray-painted warning on the pavement in key areas, which is not permanent and washes off over time. People face fines of up to £1,000 and prosecution through the courts.

Councillors were quizzed on the issue at two recent community forums, Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood, in a bid to get people to clean up after their dogs.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "I'm sure the vast majority of people love their community as much as we do and clean up after their pets. People have a right to walk along the street and play in parks without fear of treading in disgusting mess left by dogs."

"We would rather people cleaned up

after their dogs than us having to prosecute them. The stencils do not permanently mark the pavements so are environmentally friendly and hopefully will be a good reminder for people."

There are now more ways than ever before to report dog fouling and other issues to the council, and people are being asked to be the eyes and ears of the community council. People can call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 or email staff on ondudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk

The council's smartphone app is also available or people can tweet @DudleyPlus or use the 'report it' section on the council's website at www.dudley.gov.uk

Kick-start for building careers

Unemployed Dudley residents have been given a career kick-start in house building by national developer, **Wates Living Space Homes**, marking the 1,000th enrolment on the business' nationwide 'Building Futures' training programme.



Ten over 19s from Brierley Hill, Pensnett, Stourbridge and Dudley have completed the two-week programme, which gives jobseekers an opportunity to take part in construction skills training to improve employment prospects.

The candidates joined Wates Living Space Homes at the new Butler's Crescent housing scheme at Tipton Road, where the developer is building 157 new homes in partnership with Dudley Council and the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA).

Recruited through Dudley Council's adult community learning team, the candidates took part in a number of on-site trade training sessions, including carpentry, plumbing and tiling. Wates also delivered CV and interview workshops with its supply chain partners.

The training initiative at Dudley Guest saw Wates reach its 1,000th Building Futures enrolment since it launched the flagship programme in 2005. Accredited by the Qualifications and Credit Framework

Wates Living Space Homes and Dudley Council have helped 10 people into new jobs in the construction trade

(QCF). Building Futures rewards candidates with a QCF Level 1 Award in Building Crafts and a CSCS registration to help secure future training and work experience on building sites.

The programme is the latest in a line of on-site training initiatives held by Wates Living Space Homes at Butler's Crescent, where the developer is delivering 127 new build homes, 30 refurbished properties including the full restoration of the locally listed former porter's lodge.

The scheme has been named Butler's Crescent in tribute to the renowned Black Country architect, Albert Thomas Butler, who was responsible for modifications to the previous hospital building. Of the homes, 118 will be sold on the

open market and 39 will be available for rent through Dudley Council. Building work is set to complete in summer 2019.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "As a council we are committed to working with developers that can deliver successful projects and most importantly offer support and opportunities for the local community."

"Through the Wates Building Futures programme and our adult learning team we have been able to give people the training and skills they need to strengthen their experience, which we hope will give them the incentive to find employment."

"Our adult community learning team will continue to support those who have completed the course."

Lee Sale, Business Director, Wates Living Space Homes, commented: "When we began development work at the former Dudley Guest Hospital site earlier this year, we made a pledge to use this important investment as a means to create training and employment opportunities for local people."

"Together with Dudley Council, we have been working to ensure that this commitment is realised and our Building Futures programme is a particularly valuable way of going above and beyond traditional on-site training to ensure that this experience enables those that take part to secure long-term employment."

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Spacious booths afford privacy and comfort for diners



Choose from a wide selection of treats at Finesse Desserts, Dudley town centre



There is an extensive choice of puds, including waffles

Mayor experiences the sweeter side of life

Finesse Desserts opened earlier this year and has been well received with the locals and the then town Mayor alike, who was on hand to open the latest offering in desserts within the West Midlands area.

Maz decided to bring something different to the town when they saw a gap in the market for Dudley's resurging town centre.

Coupled with the recent surge of dessert shop's which have opened – and there not being one on the high street – it has definitely had a positive impact on those who have had the chance to visit Finesse Desserts.

For commendations, look no further than their 5 star reviews on their Facebook page, should give you added confidence that this is a place you can trust to hit your sweet spot!

The owner is very passionate about desserts themselves and are on hand to help when stuck for

choice and help you make your mind up. Finesse Desserts, which opened on May 16, is a great place to meet up old and new friends to socialise, perfect for families, occasions such as birthdays, even business meetings.

As Maz eloquently said: "It's perfect for your first date!"

Maz feels as if there is too few places that not only offer a great choice in dessert but a perfect ambience for a meeting place also.

Finesse Desserts offers an extensive choice in, waffles, crepes, milkshakes, ice cream, fondue, cakes, mocktails and cookie dough. Hot and cold drinks as well as luxury cakes are also on available. All the ice cream is hand made with fresh dairy products and all waffles and crepes are made freshly.

They use natural ingredients fit for the purest vegetarian and have options for gluten free and vegan's as well.

They can cover 45 diners plus a comprehensive

takeout service is available as well. Finesse Desserts have created 8 full time and part time job opportunities for all ages, including those just starting out on the job ladder and students looking to boost their income as well with flexible working shifts.

Access to Finesse Desserts is remarkably stress free as well. There is ample parking on the High Street which is free for up to one hour and free parking on the same street after 6PM of an evening.

Maz felt that the Express & Star and Dudley Chronicle were the right publication's to highlight their new dessert eatery as they can trust the platform which the company provides.

More importantly they value the readers who read and invest their time in it and in return have offered all Dudley & Wyre Forest Express & Star and Dudley Chronicle readers an exclusive 15 per cent off their total bill until October 21.

Finesse Desserts looks forward to being your sweet treat in the coming months and years.



Former Dudley mayor, Cllr Steve Waltho, tucks in to a dessert

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Now is right time for energy switch deals

With summer gone and the autumn beginning to bite now is the best time to be thinking about saving on home gas and electricity bills before the cold winter months set in.

Dudley Council is urging people to sign up to its latest Big Switch collective energy switching scheme. The scheme offers residents market leading deals on energy, not available elsewhere.

At the last campaign in May this year the average home energy saving on offer was over £300 per household, so it's well worth getting registered.

The Big Switch brings people together to reduce their energy bills by switching their energy suppliers collectively. The more people who register the better the deals on offer. It is based upon the bulk buying concept.

The deals offered from the Big Switch are not available elsewhere, indeed it has been recently reported that up to sixty percent of top energy deals are not available on the standard switching sites.

To get the best deal it is well worth registering. In previous auctions more than 6,000 people across Dudley have registered to switch with great savings on offer.

Since the scheme began in June 2013 the collective savings made by borough residents has

topped £520,000. If everyone who had signed up to the scheme had proceeded to switch savings would have reached £1.5 million.

People can register online or by phone to take advantage of the cut price rates offered by energy companies.

The Big Switch closes for registrations on October 10, people will then receive their savings offers.

The scheme is open to all householders, including people living in rented accommodation, those with a prepayment meter or people paying for dual fuel or for gas and electricity separately and those with a fuel debt of up to £500 or less.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "Our Big Switch energy auctions have proved extremely popular in the last few years with thousands signing up to take part and savings hundreds of pounds on their energy bills.

"The deals offered through the scheme are market leading, so people will be getting real value for money.

"Now is the ideal time to be registering to save ready for the coming colder winter months."

To find out more call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch

£51 million boost to employment prospects for local young adults



The Black Country Impact has successfully achieved up to £51 million of funding to deliver a two year project that will address the barriers faced by unemployed individuals aged 15-29 years.

The four Black Country Councils came together in 2014 and began work on developing a new approach that supports young people into employment, education and training.

The councils were quickly joined by Black Country Talent Match, a project led by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and funded through the Big Lottery.

Together the partnership has succeeded in gaining approval from Department of Work and Pensions for £34 million of new European Union funding, matched by £8 million from the Big Lottery Fund and further funding from partners to create a £51 million Impact programme. The funders backing the Black Country Impact project are the European Social Fund and Youth Employment Initiative, as part of the 2014-2020 European



Young people are securing better futures through Black Country Impact

Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme in England, and the Big Lottery Fund which has provided "match" funding through its financing of Black Country Talent Match.

The projects strength is its individualised approach and alternative delivery, which simply put gives young adults across the Black Country the most flexible and personalised learning and support possible. Support that will help young adults address a range of different personal needs and skills needs in order for them to have the employment opportunities they want.

Councillor Pete Lowe, Leader of Dudley Council, said: "We are delighted to have successfully secured these much needed funds for our residents.

"There can be no doubt that these are challenging times for some young adults in the Black Country. Through the Black Country Impact we are determined to tackle the barriers that may be preventing some young adults from becoming all they can.

"Impact gives its partners the ability to work across the sub-region, coordinating activities and simplifying access to services for young adults. With European Social Fund and Youth Employment Initiative funding, Impact is able to provide a depth of service that would not be achievable for our young adults by any other means currently available.

Through specialised services ranging from coaching to managed

work placements, Impact work will ultimately give our young adults the best employability prospects for the future, benefiting them and our communities. The success of Impact will not only benefit Dudley Borough but it will benefit the whole of the Black Country."

The Black Country Impact is in a unique position to have a wide range of influence with local employers across the Black Country.

The project will help young adults overcome the barriers to employment by providing a tailored programme, designed to help the individual build a future in a way that suits their circumstances.

This includes, a key worker/mentor trained to support the young adult through their journey, support with employability and skills, advice and guidance which may even include help with travel, childcare and equipment, and even brokering between the individual and the opportunity they decide upon, making it simple to start.

Contact and follow the Black Country Impact on Twitter @BC_Impact, Facebook at www.facebook.com/BlackCountryImpact. Alternatively, email Black Country Impact contacts on www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/black-country-impact



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There will be plenty of exciting events taking place this October across our visitor attractions.

Step back in time at the Black Country Living Museum. Experience the authentic sights, sounds, smells and tastes from the past and meet the costumed characters in the original shops, houses and workshops.

Tuck into traditional Hobbs fish and chips or sample a pint of beer in the Bottle and Glass Inn. Have a frightfully good evening at the Halloween Nights on offer this autumn. Visit www.bclm.com for more details

Discover the art of legging inside Dudley Canal Tunnel at Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust. Experience the 45 minute skipper guided tour into the fantastic limestone mines. Watch the light spectacular show and the new audio visual display inside the caverns. Explore the Portal Building and sample the mouth watering delights inside the 'Gongoozler' restaurant. Join in their Halloween Night with 'glow in

the dark' Halloween puppets. Visit www.dudleycanaltrust.org.uk for more details.

Get up close and personal with lions and tigers, snakes and spiders at Dudley Zoological Gardens. Visit the UK's largest colony of Humboldt's in Penguin Bay. If you fancy becoming a 'Zookeeper for a Day' there are fun-filled 'Zookeeper Day Experiences' available that will create a lasting memory. There will be a Halloween Hunt with Halloween Hocus Pocus at the Zoo so come along for a spooktacular evening. Visit the website www.dudleyzoo.org.uk for more details.

Stourbridge has been home to glassmaking for over 400 years. Explore the Stourbridge Glass Quarter and watch the art of glass blowing, marvel at the 100ft Red House Glass Cone, one of only four left in the UK. Why not enjoy browsing around the craft studios and gift shop on site. Sample a homemade cake in the Red Cone Coffee House whilst you're there.

There will be a Family Day Halloween party

and a Trick and Treat weekend, plus other activities including a Zombies Day and Ghost trail. 'Have a go craft activity sessions' are available for people of all ages across Dudley Museums Service. Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums Have your own bespoke piece of glass made at Ruskin Glass Centre and wander around the plentiful craft studios on site, sample the food in the organic cafe on site.

Webb Corbett Visitor Centre offers free heritage tours and a chance for you to learn about the history of glassmaking in the area. Whilst at Tudor Crystal you can purchase a range of beautiful handmade lead crystal glass. Entrance to the Glass Quarter attractions are free of charge and free car parking is also available. Visit the website www.ruskinglasscentre.co.uk or see www.glassquarter.org.uk for more details

The magnificent 18th Century Grade II listed building of Himley Hall & Park is set in 180 acres of 'Capability Brown' landscaped parkland. Host to a variety of events including, Halloween Hunt and Bonfire Night,

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There are four magnificent and historic town halls in the borough showcasing Dudley's Entertainment Live! Programme of top quality performances with a variety of comedy, music and theatre to appeal to all tastes. Visit the site www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment

With 16 miles of navigable canals, seven local nature reserves and one national nature reserve and a number of local parks offering a range of walks, events and activities; whatever you decide to do there is plenty to keep you busy.

There is so much to see and do in the borough Dudley really does offer an exciting mix of visitor attractions, entertainment and events throughout the year. For details visit www.discoverdudley.org.uk



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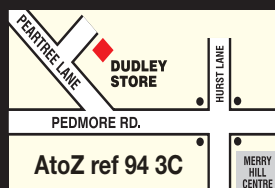
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Time for halloween fun



Fireworks illuminate the night sky at Himley

Children who are looking to go batty can enjoy two free Halloween trails this half-term (Saturday October 22 – Sunday October 31). And, if they solve the web of confusion, they could win a prize for themselves and their families.

A spooky trail, that will be available from Netherton and Brierley Hill libraries, will lead families around the two town centres.

Youngsters who solve the clues can put their completed forms into a prize draw and one name will then be pulled out of the hat at each library. Both winners will get a family ticket for Himley Hall bonfire and fireworks on Saturday, November 5, worth £23 plus free parking.

Children searching for more seasonal activities can also enjoy scary stories and craft making at the libraries, which are the locations for the first clue of each trail.

Netherton Library will host Halloween story telling at 11am and themed craft activities throughout the day on Friday, October 28.

The Brierley Hill stories and craft activities will both take place at 1pm on Saturday, October 29.

Children are encouraged to get even further into the Halloween fang club and attend the library story-telling session in a spooky costume.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "I hope that families make the most of this opportunity to spend time in our town centres whilst enjoying the fun of Halloween."

The bonfire family ticket prize admits up to two adults and two children up to the age of 15. Children under five receive free admission.

For more information visit www.discoverdudley.org.uk

Be mindful of changes in behaviour

As young people settle back in to the classroom after the summer break, they're being reminded to look out for signs of grooming and sexual exploitation among their friends.

For many, they may be meeting up with friends they've not seen in a while, so it's a prime time to notice changes in behaviour.

The See Me, Hear Me campaign from West Midlands councils and West Midlands Police highlights key warning signs to help young people identify concerns and get help.

These include having friends who are older, persistently going missing, secretive relationships with unknown adults, truancy from school, chronic fatigue, constant calls on a mobile phone and the possession of money or new things.

CSE can happen to anyone, regardless of their gender, social or ethnic background.

It is child abuse and involves perpetrators grooming their victims in various ways, such as in person, via mobiles or online, to gain their trust before emotionally and sexually abusing them.

It can take place in many forms, whether through a seemingly consensual relationship, or a young person being forced to have sex in return for some kind of payment, such as drugs, money, gifts or even protection and affection.

Signs

Information about the warning signs is available at the campaign website www.seeme-hearme.org.uk. This is a one-stop shop for information about CSE and how to spot the warning signs, along with help and advice for young people, parents and carers, professionals and schools.

Councillor Ian Cooper, Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services, said:

"Young people have been heading back to school after the summer holidays and

meeting up with friends they've not seen in a while, so it's a prime time to notice changes.

"We want all of them to be aware of the signs of CSE so they can recognise any concerns among their friends and get help.

"I would urge all young people, and their parents to visit our campaign website www.seeme-hearme.org.uk to find out more and see what they can do to help protect our children and young people.

"Everyone has their part to play in protecting our children and young from this horrific abuse."

Anyone who is concerned about the safety of a young person should call West Midlands Police on 101, speak in confidence to Barnardo's on 0121 359 5333 or in an emergency call 999.

Childline also has counsellors available online at www.childline.org.uk

People can find out more information about child sexual exploitation by visiting www.seeme-hearme.org.uk



The See Me, Hear Me campaign

New weekly market adds to town's retail opportunities

Shopaholics in Dudley will be in for a treat at a new Sunday market on Flood Street.

Dudley Council is working in conjunction with Black Country Market to run the new market on Flood Street Car Park, with the first event taking place last Sunday.

The stalls will be open from 10am to 4pm and will include a wide variety of produce

including toys, plants, clothing, food, arts and crafts, vintage and antique, hardware and jewellery and in the run up to Christmas, a range of seasonal goods and accessories.

A funfair will provide weekly entertainment with children's rides on offer. There will also be a weekly car boot sale with free parking for all visitors for the first four weeks.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "Dudley is a fantastic town centre with a great retail offer throughout the week and this new market will help to add further attraction.

"I would encourage everyone who enjoys shopping to come along and try out the markets for themselves."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment, said: "We are offering free car parking on Sundays for the first four weeks to encourage people to come and see what's on offer.

"We hope that this new initiative will boost the number of people visiting and spending in Dudley on Sundays."

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Storm brewing

Shakespeare's finest – Page 37

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What's that sound?
See Page 37

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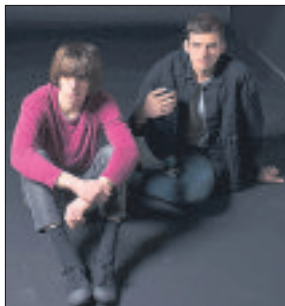
Tamsin Waley-Cohen



Monday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham

The young British violinist gives a recital with her pianist Huw Watkins featuring sonatas from Beethoven, Elgar and Ravel, plus a selection from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess.
Visit tsh.co.uk

Ultimate Painting



Tuesday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath

London duo Jack Cooper and James Hoare will bring in a rhythm section to give their wistful meanderings more punch live as they prepare to release new album Dusk.
Visit hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

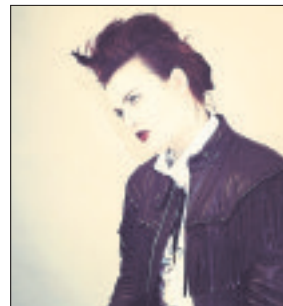
Feeder



Tuesday, 7pm
O2 Institute, Digbeth

The Welsh rockers return after a summer headline slot at the Isle of Wight Festival as they celebrate 20 years with a tour preparing for their ninth album.
Visit academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham/

Ren Harvieu & Romeo



Tonight, 7pm
O2 Institute 3, Digbeth

Romeo Stodart of London's brother-sister harmony combo The Magic Numbers teams up with Salford singing sensation Ren Harvieu.
Visit academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham/

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ROCK & METAL

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Tonight - tomorrow,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Of Mice & Men
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Superskas
Tonight, £8 - £10
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

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Tonight,
Courtyard Hereford, HR4 9JR.
Call 01432 340555

From the Jam
Tonight,
The O2 Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Definitely Mightbe (Oasis tribute)
Tomorrow,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Dark Side Of The Wall - A tribute to Pink Floyd
Tomorrow, £13 - £15
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Fleetwood Bac
Tomorrow, £12 - £13
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The English Beat
Tomorrow,
The O2 Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

John Banner Promotions presents Rock 'n' Reminisce with The Pontiacs
Tomorrow, £12.50 - £14.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Gordon Hendricks As Elvis 2016
Tomorrow - Sun, £21
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Out Of The Shadows (three hour set)
Sun,
Fletchers, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Moose Blood
Mon,
The O2 Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Marianas Trench
Mon,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Fireball - Fuelling The Fire Tour: Less Than Jake, Mariachi El Bronx, The Skints, The Bennies
Wed,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Trevor Burton charity show
Thu, £8 - £10
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

POP

Duran: The Tribute + support
Tonight, £6
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Bee Gees Fever
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Jamie T
Tomorrow,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Jake Quickenden
Wed,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Level 42 - Sirens II Tour 2016
Thu,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL FUNK & MOTOWN

The Blues Brothers
Tonight,
Hogarth's Hotel & Restaurant, Dorridge, Solihull, B93 8QE.
Call 01564779988

The Real Thing
Tomorrow, £21 - £23.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Carl Sinclair Duo
Tue, £14.95
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

CLASSICAL

Happy and Glorious - the Band of the West Midlands Fire Service
Tomorrow,
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, B73 6AB.
Call 0121 464 8990

Monday Showcase: Handel, Warlock, Mahler, C Schumann
Mon, Free
Birmingham City University, Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Traditional Song Session
Thu,
The Prince of Wales Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

Four Last Songs
Thu,
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Remi Harris at The Carad Theatre
Tomorrow,
Rhayader Museum and Gallery, LD6 5ER.
Call 01597 810561

FESTIVALS

Bladefest 2016
Sun, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

COMEDY

Dead Sheep
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Jonathan Pie Live!
Tonight,
Glee Club Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

and
Tomorrow,
The Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Andy White + Abigoliah Schamaun
Tonight,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Adam Hills: Clown Heart
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Ellie Taylor: Infideliety
Tomorrow, £10 - £12
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

James Acaster - Reset
Wed,
Glee Club Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

One Man Star Wars Trilogy
Wed, £17
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

The Unique Comedy Ukulele Orchestra
Wed, £19 - £22
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

National Poetry Day Party
Thu,
1000 Trades, Birmingham, B1 3HE.
Call 0121 233 2693

THEATRE

CATS
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Little Shop of Horrors
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Bon Jovi Experience
Tonight,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - Thu,
Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Theatre Tour
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Harbinger of Hussain
Tomorrow,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

The Tempest
Tomorrow - Thu,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Carmen
Sun, £18 - £24
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Psychic Paula Obrien Live in Birmingham
Mon,
Best Western Westley Hotel, Birmingham, B27 7UJ.
See <https://paulaobrien.net/event/paula-obrien-live-birmingham-3rd-october-2016/>

Sunset Boulevard
Tue,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

That'll Be the Day
Wed,
Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Strictly Musicals
Wed - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips
Thu, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Snow White
Thu, £12 - £19.50
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

The Duchess of Malfi
Tonight - Thu,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

MISC. EVENTS

Challenge BMX
Today - Sun,
Birmingham BMX Bike Park, Perry Park, Perry Barr, B42 1RS.
Visit <http://www.challengebmx.com>

Parent and toddler morning
Today, £2
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Leaping Lights Festival
Today,
Oriol Davies Gallery, The Park, Newtown, SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Recovery Art
Today - Thu,
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Life Drawing
Tomorrow, £15.50 - £18
Oriol Davies Gallery, The Park, Newtown, SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

World premiere of The Tempest ballet

AA NEW ballet choreographed by David Bintley and inspired by William Shakespeare is to have its world premiere at Birmingham Hippodrome on Saturday.

Full-length ballet The Tempest is a major work to conclude Birmingham Royal Ballet's 2016 Shakespeare season. BRB artistic director Bintley is promising a breath-taking production full of dazzling dance, theatrical wizardry and stunning designs by War Horse's Rae Smith.

It will be set to a new score by acclaimed British composer Sally Beamish and lit by Bruno Poet, whose previous credits include Miss Saigon.

Yorkshire-born Bintley is an honorary Brummie. He has been offered other major jobs but has stayed in Birmingham for 21 years, since the company relocated from London in a remarkable cultural coup for the second city. An avid Villa fan, he loves the city and loves how embedded the Birmingham Royal Ballet is in the cultural landscape.

A former dancer who graduated to become artistic director, and who received a CBE for his services to dance in the Queen's 2001 Honours, he has been working hard on his latest project to make a memorable conclusion to a season that marked the 400th anniversary of the death of Britain's greatest writer.

"I've been thinking about doing The Tempest for more than 30 years," he said. "I was really waiting for the right composer to come along. Four years ago I heard the music of Sally Beamish and that was it. Within



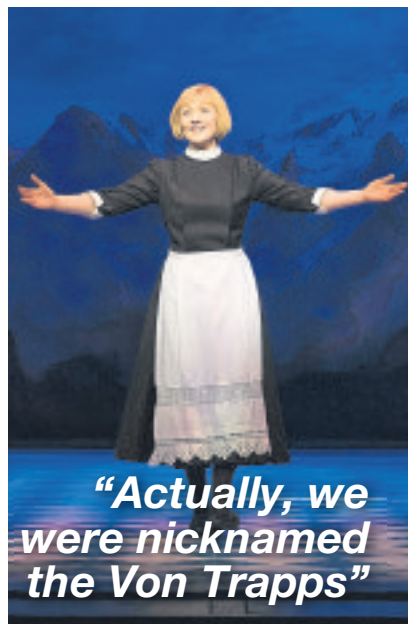
Jenna Roberts as Miranda and Joseph Caley as Ferdinand in The Tempest

a week we were in touch."

Bintley conjures Prospero's magical isle, from what was probably Shakespeare's final work before his death, in a spellbinding new work.

The Tempest is the story of a man

determined to right past wrongs by all means in his power. It intertwines themes of love, loyalty and loss, punctuated by a comedy, magic, more than one conspiracy and a spectacular masque featuring gods and spirits.



Lucy has confidence

WHEN Lucy O'Byrne was growing up in Ireland, she was nicknamed Maria. She came from a performing family that was steeped in musical theatre and singing was a part of her background. Family friends likened the O'Byrne family to the Von Trapps – the famous family from The Sound of Music.

And having landed the role of Maria, Lucy is thrilled to be taking part in the touring production that comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

"It's hard work, it's very hard work, but it's such a wonderful thing to be a part of," said Lucy. "My parents both worked in musical theatre and it was something that we always did as a family, as we were growing up. Actually, we were nicknamed the Von Trapps by our family friends long, long before this was on the horizon."

Lucy initially moved from Ireland to the UK to pursue her musical theatre career. She had started training classically when The Voice made her a household name.

"My career took a turn that I wasn't expecting with The Voice. A lot of people will know me from that," said Lucy. "But the music for The Sound of Music needs no introduction. It's Rodgers and Hammerstein and they are songs that everybody knows. They are beautiful and I am so lucky that I get to sing them every night."

Lucy had grown up watching Julie Andrews perform the role and was unsure whether she could live up to expectation. "It was absolutely terrifying but of course I jumped at it. It's so iconic but you have to make it your own."

Hunna and Jamie T sell out shows

THE Hunna reached 13 in the album chart this month with their debut 100 and have sold out their gig at the Birmingham O2 Academy on Tuesday.

Those with a ticket can expect some musical fireworks from the Hertfordshire quartet who recently released the single Bonfire. Support comes from Hampshire trio Blaanavon, who have a new single out called Let's Pray.

Jamie T, charting with fourth album Trick, has sold out the same venue on Saturday. The Fireball Fuelling The Fire tour is at the O2 Academy on Wednesday with Less Than Jake, The Skints, Mariachi El Bronx, Kemuri, and Brum's AMFX.

Wind farm debate inspires Arena play

SET against the backdrop of the debate about wind turbines, three actors tell the story of a fictional rural community and the conflicts caused by a proposed wind farm in its vicinity. Giants on the Hill is a play by Stephanie Dale, performed by Birmingham-based Centric at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight (Thursday).

A boozy night in Cork has shocking results in Edna Walsh's Disco Pigs, at Birmingham Rep's The Door, tonight to Saturday. Maura Judges celebrates an Irish literary figure, Lady Gregory: A Galway Life, at Birmingham Crescent Theatre Studio, tonight to Saturday.

Poppies are back with new line-up

STOURBRIDGE alternative rock favourites Pop Will Eat Itself are back on the road 30 years after they formed in the Black Country, albeit with one original member.

Reformed as PWEI v2.0 in 2011, original drummer Graham Crabb has taken on singing duties since original frontman Clint Mansell went to America and became a top Hollywood soundtrack composer.

The band at The Robin 2 in Bilston on Sunday also feature Mary Byker from Gaye Bykers On Acid, Jason Bowld from Killing Joke, Davey Bennett from This Burning Age and Tim Muddiman from The Strange.

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Wednesday

THE BURGER CLUB
Handmade 6oz Burgers Served with different sauces and accompaniments From 5 pm
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CURRY NIGHT
Order any Curry and get a Pint of Carlsberg or Tetleys for just
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DIGITAL



10.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Rugby League – Super League Highlights. 2.15 Bargain Hunt. 3.15 Catch Up. 4.00 Country. 4.00 News. 5.00 BBC News. 5.20 Regional Programme. 5.30 Pointless Celebrities.

6.20 Strictly Come Dancing. For the first time this year, the pre-competition dance contest gets underway as the 16 couples perform live in a bid to remain in the competition. The scores from last week's opening weekend performances carry forward to tonight's totals, as Lesley Juddman, David Russell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood once again assess each couple's finesse on the dance-floor. The voting lines then open, as viewers at home get the chance to have their say on their favourite pairings ahead of tomorrow night's results show.

8.25 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together to return to win a one-life-time reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then answer any unanswered questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts and Gabby Roslin introduces the all-important weekend Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.15 Casually. Ethel Struggles to make Alicia's birthday a day to remember as Lily and her friends with a family feud too close to home.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Swansea City v Liverpool at the Liberty Stadium and Arsenal United v Middlesbrough at the Olympic Stadium. The Reds will be hoping to find some consistency in their away form, having begun the season with a victory at Arsenal that was followed by a defeat to newly-promoted Burnley. However, they were impressive in their most recent away tie, a 2-1 victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in the National Lottery update.

11.45 The NFL Show.

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.28 BBC News.

00.00 The Women's Football Show. (R)
6.35 Film: From This Day Forward. (1994)
6.40 & 8.05 Film: Berlin Express. (1948)
9.30 GOLF: The Ryder Cup. (R) **11.00**
Lost Land of the Volcano. (R) **12.00**
The Great British Menu. (R) **12.10**
Nature Under the Hammer. (R) **1.35**
Homes' Weirdest Events. (R) **3.15** **Flag**
4.10 The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and
Egg. (R) **5.10** Gardeners' World. (R)
6.10 **Inside the Commons.** Michael
Cameron presents a 50 documentary
filmed over the course of a year in
the House of Commons, giving an
insight into the day-to-day life and
work of everyone from the Prime
Minister to those who support him.
Cameron follows relatively
new MPs Charlotte Leslie and
Sarah Champion as they learn the
ways of the House, while David
Cameron and his opposite number
Barack Obama reveal the challenges
at Prime Minister's Questions.
The programme also meets a
gospel-singing tea lady who works in
the members' tea room and joins a
members' tea league to help to
down the face of the clock tower. (R)
**7.10 The Great British Bake Off: An
Extra Slice.** Jo Brand is joined by
broadcasters Danny Baker and two
other celebrity fans to discuss the
good, the bad and the soggy
baked moments from botanical
week. (R)
7.40 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring
initiates a recruitment campaign,
but makes the mistake of leaving
Wilson in charge of the poster.
Starring Bernard Cribbins, John Lowe
and John Le Mesurier. (R)
**8.10 Betjeman & Me: Rick Stein's
Story.** The chef celebrates poet
John Betjeman's love affair with
the English seaside holiday, and
his affection for Cornwall. (R)
**9.00 Railway Station: Britain in a
Day.** Six poets reinvent W.G.
Austen and Benjamin Britten's
1936 train journey across Britain,
documenting the voices of
travellers from all walks of life
and capturing their unique
experience. (R)
10.00 Performance Live: Kate Tempest.
The spoken-word artist hosts a
night of poetry. (R)
11.00 Artsnight: Poets at the BBC.
A special edition of the cultural
magazine show. (R)
12.00 Live at the Apollo. (R) 12.30 Golf:
The Ryder Cup. (R) **12.40** The Walker.
(2017) **3.40 This is BRIT.** Ten

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.15 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.25 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50 Shoo a Story.** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories:** Shoo a Story. (R) **7.05 Super 4.** (R) **7.20 Addicts.** (R) **7.25 Scrambled!** Scrambled! **7.30 Scrambled!** Nerdz & Monsters. (R) **7.50 Scrambled!** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled!** Looped. **8.30 Scrambled:** Be Cool, Scoby! (R) **8.50 Scrambled!** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.20 Judge Rinder.** (R) **12.20 ITV News:** Weather. **12.30 River Monsters.** (R) **1.00 Tipping Point.** (R) **1.30 The X Factor.** (R) **5.00 Ninja Warrior UK.**

6.00 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15 ITV News:** Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a man hunting mosquitos with a bow and arrow and a blind demolitionist in his mother's kitchen. (R)

7.00 Go for It. Members of the public are given a chance to demonstrate their most unusual skills in unique challenges, with successful contestants claiming a £1,000 prize. (R) **7.25 The X Factor.** As the judges' houses stage begins, the remaining 28 acts jett off to glamorous destinations around the world to compete for places in the new shows. Dermot O'Leary hosts.

9.30 Newsround. Satirical sketch comedy blending traditional puppetry and animation, with impressionists John Cuslaw, Debra Stephenson, Lewis Macleod and Simon Groom.

10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. The Legend of Tarzan star Alexander Skarsgård, and The Girl on the Train's Emily Blunt and Luke Evans join Jonathan in the studio, along with Britney Spears, who performs live.

11.05 ITV News: Weather.

11.25 Film: Columbo: Agenda for Murder. (1990) A crooked lawyer murders a blackmailer and makes it look like suicide – but the shabby sleuth sees through his ruse. (R) After Fall

10.10 Jackpot247. **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightseries.**

6.00 Motor Sport: GT Academy. (6.25 The Grid. 6.55 Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. 8.05 The Morning Line. 9.00 Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Race Live. 11.30 Murray Walker Meets Jensen. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 Go's Fill Your House for Free. 2.00 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Newmarket and Redcar. 4.30 Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Qualifying. (R) 5.00 Formula 1: Malaysian Grand Prix Race. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows Matt and Sophie White from Sussex as they build a giant family house of fun for themselves and their children. Going against the norm of design, using a series of practical home, the couple's property features a revolving bookcase door, secret dens, hiding places, one-way mirrors, and a fireman's trolley. The house uses a home system to allow them to change the layout of the property, and other changes include amending the window shapes and sizes, and adding a half floor to create a just a few second rooms. (R)

8.00 Walking Through Time.
Paleoanthropologist Dr Tori Herridge and Professor Adrian Lister visit Shropshire to discuss analysis into the remains of five mammoths found in a quarry in 1986. The results revealed that these mammoths were among the last of their species to survive in Europe and Tori wonders whether this gives a clue as to how the species disappeared out altogether.

9.00 Out 10 Cats Do! Countdown.
Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz, with Lee Mack and Catherine Tate taking on Sean Lock and Miles Jupp. John Cooper, Chris Squire, David Walliams in Dictionary Corner, while Rachel Riley looks after the numbers and letters.

10.00 Film: Transcendence. (2014)
Premiere. A scientist is assassinated, but resurrected as an artificial intelligence that makes horrific plans for the human race. Sci-fi drama, with Johnny Depp and Rebecca Hall.

12.15 Film: How I Live Now. (2013)
2.00 Holyoaks. (R) 4.05 Kristie's Virtual Fix. (R) 4.20 Location, Location, Location. (R)

9.00 **Milkshake** 8.25 **Tuesday** Mutant Ninja Turtles. 9.00 **The Saturday Show Live**. 11.05 **Police Interceptors**. (R) 12.00 **Police Interceptors**. (R) 1.00 **Police Interceptors**. (R) 2.00 **Nightmare Theatre**. Slum Landlords. (R) 3.00 **Nightmare Theatre**. Slum Landlords. (R) 4.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. (R) 5.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. (R) 6.00 **5 News Weekend**.
 6.05 **NCIS**. Gibbs discovers a link between the murder of a petty officer and the break-up of his relationship – but arrive to find that new director Leon Vance to uncover a case of blackmail. (R)
 7.00 **NCIS**. A lieutenant apparently commits suicide by jumping from an aircraft carrier and Ziva and McGee are dispatched to inform the family – but arrive to find that he has been murdered. (R)
 7.55 **NCIS: New Orleans**. An immigrant petty officer dies in an apparent suicide, though Loretta finds fingermarks around the neck that suggest he was strangled before being thrown off the ship. The team questions the victim's mother and brother, who both live locally and a link is found to a people-smuggling gang bringing migrants to the states using boats. When the team members intercept the latest arrivals, they see a familiar face. Elsewhere, the agents secretly create an online dating profile for Pride. Scott Bakula and Lucas Black.
 8.55 **5 News Weekend**.
 9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship**. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Birmingham City v Blackburn Rovers.
 10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush**. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.
 10.25 **Gotham**. Crime thriller based on characters from the Batman comic. Following the death of Gordon's rise from rookie detective to police commissioner. Starring Ben McKenzie. (R)
 11.25 **Gotham**. Detective James Gordon is on the trail of two child snatchers who are targeting the city's homeless. (R)
 11.55 **SuperCasino**. 3.10 **Air Crash: Terror at Take-Off**. (R)

7BC Four
1.20 Lost Kingdoms of South America
8.00 Cyldebuilt: The Ships That Made the Commonwealth **9.50** Beck **10.30** Do We Really Need the Moon? **11.30** Horizon
Special: Beyond the Moon **12.30** Top of the Pops: 1980-2010 **Do We Really Need the Moon?** **7.30** Close

ITV2
11.20 The X Factor **1.20** The X Factor Film: Live **2.20** Ninja Warrior **UK 3.25** Film: The Bachelor (1999) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** Film: The Bachelor (1999) **5.20** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.20** FYI Daily
6.30 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **7.15** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **9.30** The X Factor Live **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.40** American Idol **1.35** The Cleveland Show **2.25** Film: The Flashing **3.45** ITV2
 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.25 Film: The Miserables (1978) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.40** Film: The Miserables (1978) **1.55** Rosemary & Thyme **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **7.15** Midsomer Murders: A Christmas Murder **1.00** Lewis **1.00** You're Only Young **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.00 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05** Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) **3.35** Film: The Green Berets (1968) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.20** Film: The Green Berets (1968) **6.00** Fishing Impossible **7.00** Fierce **8.00** Film: Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1989) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10** Film: Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1989) **10.10** Film: The Godfather Part II (1974) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: A Dangerous Man (2010) **1.55** Film: Manny (2014) **12.55** FYI Daily **1.00** Film: Manny (2014) **1.40** The Big Fish **Off 2.35** Movies **Now 2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** Baby Daddy **1.00** New Girl **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Goldbears **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Die Hard **2** **11.00** Film: Wanted (2008) **1.35** Gogglebox **2.40** Empire **4.10** Rude Tube **5.00** Rude(s) Tube **4.55** Revenue

Film4
11.00 Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **1.00** Percy Jackson: Son of Monsters (2013) **3.10** Avatar (2009) **6.20** Seven Years in Tibet (1997) **9.00** Ted (2012) **11.05** Warm Bodies (2013) **1.00** Young Adult (2013) **1.00** The Sea Dragon (2013) **3.45** Cinemas

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Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Yorkshire or East Midlands area hotel with full English breakfast
- ✓ Visit to Chatsworth House and gardens, with admission (value £20)
- ✓ Visit to Lincoln Christmas Market

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/QPR601

Single room supplement £25pp. Subject to availability.

Quote Code: GPM470

Grassington Dickensian Festival & Manchester's Christmas Markets Saver

Departing Saturday 3 December 2016

Get your comfy shoes on for this festive duet of a Yorkshire town turned temporarily Victorian, and the up-to-the-minute appeal of Manchester city centre and its chalet-style European Christmas markets.

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star North West area hotel with full English breakfast
- ✓ Visit to Grassington Dickensian Festival
- ✓ Visit to Manchester's Christmas markets

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A 2x2 grid of four images showcasing Indian cuisine. The top-left image shows two metal bowls, one with yellow curry and one with red curry. The top-right image shows a white plate with fried food and yellow sauce, with several small black bowls in the background. The bottom-left image shows a metal bowl filled with red curry. The bottom-right image shows a wooden surface with various spices, including a spoon with yellow powder, a spoon with red powder, and a whole red chili pepper.

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Alex Cross, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A homicide cop pursues an ex-military assassin who has sadistically tortured and murdered a wealthy executive, leaving a surreal clue to the next victim. However, as the detective tries to bring the killing spree to an end, he finds his own family is also in the firing line. Crime thriller, starring Tyler Perry, Matthew Fox and Jean Reno. (2012)

TUESDAY

Virtual Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman discovers her husband is having an affair over the internet. He is shamed into giving up the relationship and trying to save their troubled marriage, but the concerned wife soon discovers her online rival is dangerously obsessed with him and will stop at nothing to drive them apart. Thriller, starring Christina Cox and Marc Menard. (2012)

WEDNESDAY

The Good Witch's Destiny, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Cassandra Nightingale prepares to celebrate her birthday, hoping to bring as many of her friends and family together as possible. While investigating her family history, she discovers a story of a curse connected to the mysterious disappearance of her great aunt. Drama sequel, the sixth film in the Good Witch series, starring Catherine Bell. (2013)



Killer Elite, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

Crimes of the Mind, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Carolyn Raeburn signs her 16-year-old daughter Laura up for a few weeks of horse-riding lessons at a remote ranch, but the teenager ends up being brainwashed by a woman who grooms her to take the place of her own murdered child. Carolyn spends the next five years of her life and more than half a million dollars fighting to get her Laura back. Fact-based thriller, starring Christina Cox. (2014)

FRIDAY

Killer Elite, Channel 5, 10pm

A former secret agent takes on one last mission to save his mentor, but assassins are sent to stop him. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham, Clive Owen and Robert De Niro. (2011)

Series shows Sugar is still sweet on success

Yes, that's Sergei Prokofiev's haunting Dance of the Knight (aka Montagues and Capulets) you can hear coming out of your TV speakers.

So unless Sunderland AFC are making their way onto the pitch (the theme is also used on matchdays at the Stadium of Light), then The Apprentice is back.

We all know the score by now – a new batch of sycophants desperate to impress us with their business acumen and rezeomays descend on the capital, all armed with their wheele suitcases and soundbites.

Then Lord Sugar steps down from his private jet, into the back of the Roller and off to the boardroom to regale everyone with tales of how he began his own business, loaded the lorries, designed the product and stood on the production line, and now he's a peer with a private plane.

Tonight Sugar begins his latest search for a chip-off-the-old-block rough diamond to polish.

The winners of The Apprentice haven't always gone to forge long-

lasting relationships with Sir Alan, but triumphing in the show can certainly give them a leg up on the entrepreneurial ladder.

Last year's winner Joseph Valente used his prize to expand his plumbing business, and predecessor Mark Wright launched an SEO business called Climb Online.

The champ from 2013 Dr Leah Totton owns a cosmetic skin clinic and has also appeared on This Morning, while 2012's Ricky Martin owns a recruitment company.

Other notable contestants from years gone by have included Michelle Dewberry, the season two champion who continues to be a media personality, and Katie Hopkins – now one of the country's most divisive writers.

So who are the candidates that will be tasked with donning pines over their shiny suits to flog fish fingers to stockbrokers in the City this year?

Well whoever they are, you can bet Sir Alan knows which he expects to win from an early stage and the rest are dispensable.

In fairness to Sugar, at least he makes a pretence of sacking them for a reason, and not at random, which of course makes for better entertainment for us.

But although the details of the individuals is unknown at the moment, we'd expect the classic challenges to feature throughout the series – a trade show, an advertising task, some kind of test which forces Lord Sugar to talk about apps and the gruelling interview stage.

Many will also be hoping for a return of previous favourite – the shopping-channel task – so fingers crossed there. One thing that is changing, however, is the host of The Apprentice: You're Fired!

Welsh stand-up comedian Rhod Gilbert will be stepping into Jack Dee's shoes for the BBC Two spin-off and is looking forward to quizzing the rejected candidates.

Claude Littner and Karren Brady also return for the new series, with Littner apparently saying that he plans to be "a little bit more friendly" this year.



The Apprentice, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16, Channel 5, 9pm

Joining the Army is always a life-changing decision – but when you sign up at just 16, the adjustment can be particularly challenging. This new four-part series follows 45 teens from across the country as they arrive in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, for an intensive military training course that's the only one of its kind in Europe. As well as learning to cope with 5.30AM starts, 16-hours days and being cut off from family and friends, the young recruits will also have to cope with field exercises and lessons in weapon-handling. It's also very physically demanding, and in the first episode, junior soldier Laura is feeling the pressure as she tries to overcome her fears of heights on a 40ft-high rope course.

TUESDAY

House Doctor, Channel 5, 7pm

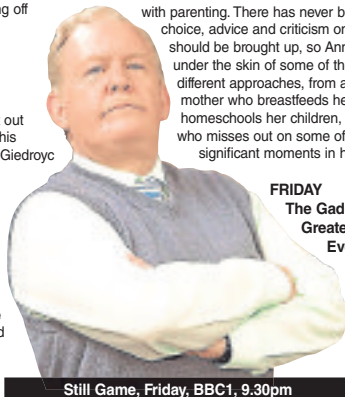
It was way back in 1998 that Channel 5's original House Doctor, Californian Ann Maurice, embarked on a mission to help British homeowners sell their properties. Her message may have been simple (most episodes involved de-cluttering, making it clear which room was which and toning down any particularly strong colour schemes), but it seems

we still need a reminder, as new doctor Tracy Metro is in the house. The revamped series began on Monday morning, but this primetime edition will give more viewers the chance to see her property prescriptions. Here, Tracy offers some of her special brand of constructive advice to Sue in Dorset, whose dated décor may be putting off potential buyers.

WEDNESDAY

The Great British Bake Off, BBC1, 8pm

The six remaining bakers battle it out for a place in the quarter-finals. This time, it is dessert week, and Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins assemble the contestants for three more challenges. To begin with, the amateurs face a sweetly filled signature bake, before moving on to prepare a tricky French dessert that proves to be one of the series' toughest technical challenges to date. Finally, for the showstopper, Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry ask the bakers to produce multi-bake, mini masterpieces.



Still Game, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

THURSDAY

Anne Robinson's Britain, BBC1, 8pm

New series. The broadcaster examines different aspects of 21st-century Britain to find out how the nation's citizens choose to live their lives, beginning with parenting. There has never been so much choice, advice and criticism on the way children should be brought up, so Anne sets out to get under the skin of some of the radically different approaches, from an attachment mother who breastfeeds her toddlers and homeschools her children, to a career mum who misses out on some of the most significant moments in her children's lives.

FRIDAY

The Gadget Show, Channel 5, 7pm

Greatest Gadgets Ever!
New series. One-hour special in which Jason Bradbury, Jon Bentley, Ortis Deley and

Amy Williams attempt to compile a Top 20 list of the greatest gadgets of all time. To qualify, each has to be a physical object with an electronic element, and there has to be clear evidence that it had changed people's lives for the better. After much impassioned debate and persuasive argument between its own members, the team presents an agreed countdown that is likely to inform, entertain and infuriate viewers in equal measure.

Still Game, BBC1, 9.30pm

After a nine-year gap, Glaswegian pensioners Jack and Victor are back for a new series – and they can truly say it's by popular demand. When the sitcom's writers and stars Ford Kiernan and Greg Hemphill announced they were staging a live version of Still Game at Glasgow's SSE Hydro in 2014, the public response was so enthusiastic that the planned four-night run was expanded to 21 shows. No wonder the Beeb decided not only to revive the series but to promote it to BBC1. In the opening episode, the pensioners fall under the spell of the Futuroo catalogue, which promises to 'make life that wee bit easier', leading Jack and Victor to spar over who's got the best gadget. Meanwhile, Winston experiences a rivalry of his own when his brother Walter pays a visit.

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BRAIN GYM No.397

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

18	16	19	13	25	21	14	19	23	6	10	20
16		10		5		21		5		21	
20		26	16	21	19	22	10	20	4		
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			9	5		23					
13	21	8	8	3	2	8	3	1	24		
21		5		2	5	8	17		21	22	
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P	O	W	Q	G	M	I	J	Z	E	N	C	H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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1	14
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11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- During the stage turn, I have to be... (8)
- ... unoccupied (being lazy) (4)
- Announce the scores as 100 each (4)
- It's execrable the defendant should be about right (8)
- Put off being freed to go out (5)
- He gives chase to ship's officer round Union Head (7)
- What anarchy might produce? (13)
- Hold back the others with wet weather (8)
- We shall shortly find water here (4)
- I belong to low order (7)
- Committed to being tied up (5)
- Engrave in sketchy fashion (4)
- Was there as an abstainer concluded (8)

Down

- Could not be closer to Eastern revolution (7)
- Assemble for prayer (7)
- No 2 is chief man in immoral racket? (4-9)
- Put side in contention (7)
- Lasts, but sure to crack at the finish (7)
- Quantities of paper used by sound groups of singers? (6)
- What the striker receives in church? (7)
- It can kill in races (7)
- No beer? get dressed! (6)
- Substantial (8)
- When one can expect fresh lunacy? (3,4)
- License absence of noise (7)

1	2	3		4		5	6	7
					8			
9				10				
11					12			
13		14	15			16		17
18						19		
20						21		
22				23				

Quick Clues:

Across

- Reprove (8)
- Young whale (4)
- Dull pain (4)
- Unlearned (8)
- Smaller (5)
- Stretchable (7)
- Unconsciousness (13)
- Substantial (8)
- Sob (4)
- Alighted (7)
- Trifling (5)
- Yelps (4)
- Hated (8)

Down

- Refuse (7)
- Burdensome (7)
- Vow abstinence (4,3,6)
- Greed (7)
- Suitability (7)
- Actions (6)
- Please (7)
- Unceasing (3-4)
- Eatable (6)
- Novelty (7)
- Royal mace (7)

Sudoku

1		6	7			5
	9		5	3		4
	3			6	7	
	5		4			9
	4	2		1	8	
3		7	5		6	
	5			4	9	
1		9		7		3
3			1			2

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	4	2	8	5	7	6	9	1
5	8	1	3	9	6	4	7	2
6	9	7	4	2	1	3	8	5
1	3	5	2	8	4	7	6	9
7	6	8	1	3	9	2	5	4
4	2	9	6	7	5	1	3	8
8	5	4	7	1	3	9	2	6
2	1	3	9	6	8	5	4	7
9	7	6	5	4	2	8	1	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Thoroughly; 7 Amass; 8 Look-out; 10 Hat-trick; 11 Five; 13 Number; 15 Ring up; 17 Tact; 18 Lighters; 21 Niblick; 22 Obese; 23 Headstones. Down: 1 Toast; 2 Observes; 3 O'clock; 4 Grow; 5 Looming; 6 Washing; 9 Trespasses; 12 High-born; 14 Macabre; 16 Wicket; 19 Evens; 20 Kind. QUICK - Across: 1 Amalgamate; 7 Raise; 8 Tillage; 10 Wayfarer; 11 Rude; 13 Impact; 15 Reject; 17 Eros; 18 Mediator; 21 Swindle; 22 Inert; 23 Repentance. Down: 1 Amity; 2 Abeyance; 3 Gather; 4 Male; 5 Traduce; 6 Brawniness; 9 Electorate; 12 Revision; 14 Provide; 16 Defect; 19 Theme; 20 Edge.

Quiz

- In which continent is the Drakensberg mountain range?
- How do we now know Brightheimstone?
- From which flower is orrisroot obtained?
- For which film did Jessica Tandy receive an Oscar at 80?
- Which king handed Parliament the Crown Estate in exchange for the civil list?
- Of which Irish province is Dublin the capital?
- With which magician was Claudia Schiffer romantically linked?
- Which is the only metal to burn in nitrogen?
- In 1919, brothers Ross and Keith Smith were the first to fly from England to where?
- What do we call the mammal Lutra lutra?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Cotswolds; 2 Kingdoms;

3 Jesse Owens; 4 Seven; 5 Nosebleed;

6 Mexico; 7 James Clavell;

8 King Arthur; 9 Michigan; 10 Stephen.

Niner: DEMOCRATS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

978 gives a drink,
3452 gives a fish,
57621 gives offal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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THE EMMERDALE STUDIO EXPERIENCE

2 DAYS £99.95

NEW

VENTURE BEHIND THE CAMERA AT EMMERDALE STUDIO EXPERIENCE

Overnight dinner, bed & breakfast
DEPARTS SAT 15, 22, 29 OCT, 12 NOV

Become a part of the drama and discover the magic that lies at the heart of ITV's iconic television series as the new Emmerdale Studio Experience opens for the first time this autumn.

The fully guided tours will shine a light on the production process and reveal how everything fits together. With full scale set reconstructions, preserved props and costumes to the secrets behind stunts and special effects, this is a rare chance to step behind the camera and into the exciting world of telly.

Groups will experience the much-loved surroundings of the Dingles, Bernice's Salon, Smithy Cottage and The Woolpack sets, hear fascinating facts on some of the soap's biggest storylines and get the gossip and stories from the studio floor as a guide takes them on a unique tour.

We also make a visit to historic York.

STEP IN TO THE EXCITING WORLD OF TELLY AT THIS EXCITING NEW ATTRACTION

The Emmerdale Studio Experience brand has been licensed by ITV to Continuum Attractions, who produce and operate this unique visitor attraction.

The Flying Scotsman

2 DAYS ONLY £119.95

Steam Train Ride

★ Enjoy a ride on board the Flying Scotsman over the East Lancs Railway plus a visit to Liverpool

Overnight Half Board

SATURDAY 15 Oct

Warner Studio Tour Making of Harry Potter

2 DAYS ONLY £119.95

★ Admission included to the Warner Studio Tour to see the Magical effects behind the Harry Potter World and a visit to the Science and Natural History Museums.

Overnight Half Board

SATURDAYS 8 Oct, 12, 19, 26 Nov, 3, 10, 17 Dec

Matlock Bath Illuminations

2 DAYS £79.95

Get out & about

- Steaming through the Peak & Matlock Bath Illuminations - We visit the market town of Buxton before travelling by steam train from Rowsley to Matlock in time for Matlock Bath Illuminations - make sure you see the Venetian Nights illuminated boats on the Derwent (small admission fee payable locally) before watching the spectacular fireworks display at 9pm
- York - Discovery visit to this historic city

Overnight bed & breakfast
SAT 29 OCT

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SHROPSHIRE SUCCESS STORY

This year saw a new chapter in the success story of The Punch Bowl Inn, Wedding Venue & Gardens, located just outside picturesque Bridgnorth – Last year was their tenth year at the helm, which saw further investments of over £300,000 in new wedding facilities, including an ornamental lake for guests and a complete refurbishment of the pub, bars and restaurant. All now fully open for weddings.

The venue is owned by the Giles family who are collectively known as Nostalgia Inns also owning the popular Plough Inn, New Bewdley. They purchased Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn back in 2005. Their passion for traditional hospitality, service and quality ingredients has returned a string of awards over the years – and much praise from customers who travel from all over the region to enjoy their Award winning carvery, friendly staff and now their unrivalled wedding facilities with gardens and dual lake. They have also been awarded 'Wedding Venue of the Year' for the Midlands by On-

line Wedding planner and this year crowned "UK Venue of The Year" by the prestigious 'Les Routier' Guide.

Owner Adam Giles comments "This year has been a very exciting year for the team and even greater value for our customers. Autumn sees a return to our roaring open fires, lots of daily specials including our homemade pies and bakes, and of course our Award Winning AGA Carvery, a favourite at this time of year. All our ingredients are sourced locally and prime cut meats provided on every service." Adam Continues "We all like party too, especially leading up to Christmas. Our party nights and tribute acts always prove a smash hit in December. This year we are even offering them from 14th November, with many dates already booked up."

Halloween Theme Tribute Night. Meat Loaf returns "Back out Of Hell" by Craig Halford. The perfect larger than life party celebration for Halloween. Fancy dress is optional, Friday November 4th. Ask for details.

Wedding fayre – Another first for the Punch Bowl will be their mid week wedding fayre on Thursday October 6th. Due to popular demand the would-be-brides and grooms will be meeting the fifteen stall holders who each specialise in wedding related services across the region. "This year our new wedding gardens have matured beautifully" comments Charlotte Anslow, Wedding Co-ordinator "The Japanese bridge, love swing and waterfall are all now installed, it really is a wonderful location and backdrop to the Shropshire Hills for wedding photos" Attendees who book can also save £1000 off wedding bookings with exclusive use of their wedding gardens. As a thank you each couple will receive an AGA Carvery voucher to sample their award winning cuisine.

Further information call
01746 763304 or visit
www.punchbowlinn.com
www.twitter.com/yeoldpunchbowlinn



New Wedding Gardens and Dual Lake. The Perfect Backdrop to Shropshire Weddings



Autumn Specials Fresh From The AGA

Autumn AGA Carvery

LUNCH:

Monday-Saturday 12noon-2.00pm
Lunchtime Specials from £6.50
including our famous AGA Carvery

EVENINGS

Tuesday - Saturday 6.00pm - 9.00pm

2 COURSE SPECIAL FROM ONLY £9.95
Available Tuesday to Thursday.

3 COURSE EVENING SPECIAL FROM £11.95
Available Tuesday to Thursday

SUNDAY CARVERY: 12noon - 4.00pm
Note: Closed Sunday & Monday evenings.

YE OLDE
PUNCH BOWL
WEDDING VENUE & GARDENS

Tribute: "Meat Loaf" by Craig Halford, returns!

Halloween theme party

Fancy dress is of course optional!

Friday Nov 4th.
Last few spaces!

Festive Packages
in our Ludlow Suite
for groups from just £16.50 per head.

Party nights from £19.95

Available from November 14th!

Visit website for full details
and menus.

www.punchbowlinn.com 01746 763304 PUNCH BOWL Ludlow Road, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.WV16 5NQ

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WEDDING FAYRE:
October 6th from 5.30pm!
AGA Voucher for
every
couple!

Spanish-style villa home an oasis in the Black Country

Probably a one-of-a-kind house-type in the area, Orchard Bank off the Wolverhampton Road in Sedgley is a unique and completely refurbished property which is also likely to be one of the only Spanish villa-style homes in the area.

An oasis in the Midlands, it is for sale through Swinscoes at £399,950.

"A fine residence of substance and quality in a delightful position, set back along a Country Lane just off the Wolverhampton Road, this property gives the feeling of rural countryside living, yet is centrally located for the ease of accessing the thriving small town of Sedgley as well as Wolverhampton City Centre," said a spokesman for the selling agent.

The superbly proportioned accommodation includes deluxe fittings with a delightful blend of traditional features with modern appointments. The individually designed and immaculately maintained accommodation offers flexible living space.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a kitchen and a utility room, a lounge, a full size snooker/entertainment room (approximately 72m by 65m in size), a dining room (a possible bedroom 4), a bedroom and a bathroom. Upstairs there are a further two bedrooms and an en-suite.

There are extensive gardens to the front and rear of the property over a level of tiers, with feature decking and a pond, as well as a double garage with a workshop and another small garage. The home lies at the head of a leafy country lane. A driveway leads to a double garage and a further shed/garage. The entrance hallway has stairs off.

The kitchen has a selection of wall mounted and base fitted units with work surfaces over, splash back tiling, integrated oven, hob and extractor hood, integrated dish washer, a breakfast 'island' and tiled flooring.

The ground floor bathroom is fully tiled, with its suite including a 'roll top' bath, bidet and tiled flooring.

With a bay window, the lounge has a door to the garden and a feature log burner and double doors opening to a snooker/entertainment room with a gas fire. Downstairs bedroom one overlooks the frontage.

SEDGLEY £399,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Swinscoes

TEL: 01902 672274

EMAIL: admin@swinscoes.com

KEY FEATURES

Individually designed
Spanish villa-style
Residence of substance
Well located for commuting
Fully refurbished



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WORDSLEY, Lymsey Croft

A STUNNING, SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED & BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW within this small, exclusive cul de sac close to local shops / amenities, offering an incredibly spacious and attractively appointed layout which is 'ready to move into'. Enjoying a large attractive frontage with block paved driveway, enclosed side drive, GARAGE and a secluded and beautifully landscaped garden. EPC D

New price

£284,950



KINGSWINFORD, Digby Road

Enjoying a generous corner position within this cul de sac upon highly sought after Charterfields, this EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE offers an enlarged, now very spacious and attractively appointed layout, plus a block paved DRIVEWAY with a USEFUL STORE and generous side / rear gardens, providing the potential for further extensions (subject to consent). EPC D

£259,950



QUARRY BANK, Coppice Rise

This TRULY SPACIOUS & RATHER HANDSOME, DETACHED HOME comprises: Reception Hall, Attractive Lounge, Dining Room, Spacious Breakfast Kitchen, FOUR SUPERB BEDROOMS (Master with En-Suite), Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Large Garden. EPC: D

£239,950



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits, Shakespeare Road

Spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & majority uPVC double glazed detached bungalow within reasonable walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities briefly comprising porch, central reception hall, cloaks, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, pantry, store, through lobby. Brick garage (automated door), secluded rear garden. EPC. D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000



COSELEY, Crowesbridge Mews

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Fantastically well presented detached home with central heating & double glazing located in popular cul-de-sac. THREE BEDROOM property is tastefully extended & benefits from porch, hallway, breakfast-kitchen, utility room, open-plan lounge, sunroom, bathroom, master bedroom with ensuite, garage/ storage, garden, driveway. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950



KINGSWINFORD, Mount Pleasant

Further enhanced by the GARAGE and a PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, this IMPRESSIVE MID TOWNHOUSE offers a family sized layout which includes THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. With GARAGE, views of the Clent Hills and superbly located within a desirable cul de sac, close to woods EPC D

No upward chain

£180,000



LOWER GORNAL, Wallows Wood

Tremendously modernised, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that has been comprehensively modernised in recent years at head of cul-de-sac with porch, hall, and "open plan" accommodation incorporating lounge section (with bay), dining room section (with French doors out to garden), and a refitted kitchen section. Three bedrooms, bathroom, parking, "sun trap" side/rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £180,000



TIPTON, Castle Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Enviably situated on the sought after Castle Road, Tipton, this detached residence boasts; central heating and double glazing and an extension to rear. Along with entrance porch this good-sized family home comprises of; hallway, living room, kitchen-diner, sun/ utility room, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, garage, garden and driveway to front. EPC: E. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £180,000



WOODSETTON, Parkes Lane

A superbly presented DETACHED property situated in much sought after area of Woodsetton in Dudley. As well as having gas central heating and double glazing, this lovely home also boasts; entrance hall, living room, kitchen-diner, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, garage, driveway to front and attractive enclosed rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £177,500

New



DUDLEY, Milking Bank , Sedgfield Close

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An attractive, imposing & particularly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated detached family residence occupying a fine corner plot in favoured district. Offering potential, the accommodation includes; entrance porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, Four bedrooms (one with ensuite), bathroom. LARGE 36 FT GARAGE, sheltered rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



WORDSLEY, Friars Close

Delightfully situated at the head of this exclusive cul de sac, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW requires updating, yet provides FANTASTIC POTENTIAL to improve the spacious layout. With a pebbled driveway, GARAGE and a pleasant level rear garden. EPC E

New



NETHERTON, Bobbington Way

This GORGEOUS & SIMPLY STUNNING, THREE BEDROOM, HOME comprises: Hall, Stylish Sitting Room, Dining Room, CONTEMPORARY GLOSS KITCHEN, Three Bedrooms, MODERN BATHROOM, Excellent Driveway & DIVINE REAR GARDEN with SECLUDED PATIO AREA. EPC:

Offers in the region of £233,500

No upward chain

£169,950

£162,950



LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

VERY FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION! - Surprisingly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed dormer style detached within walking distance of so many amenities & enjoying good distant views comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Cardoness Place

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas centrally heated double glazed (majority UPVC) semi detached in favoured/convenient district (close to Milking Bank amenities) with entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, potential garage space, sheltered expertly landscaped rear garden.. EPC: C SEDGLEY



WORDSLEY, Clock Tower View

A VERY LARGE & INDIVIDUAL TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT enjoying DELIGHTFUL VIEWS onto rear lawns and forming part of the Heritage Buildings at Crystal Mead, offering a spacious, beautifully appointed layout, plus ALLOCATED CAR PARKING and visitor parking. EPC D



COSELEY, Crowesbridge Mews

Exceptionally stylish, significantly enhanced, freehold, gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed two bedroom semi detached occupying a corner plot in favoured district comprising: entrance vestibule, lounge with 'living flame' gas fire, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lengthy driveway, brick 'contractors' garage, 'low maintenance' garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



LANESFIELD, Ward Grove

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING comprehensively renovated, freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow in convenient district. Superb accommodation provides refitted 'hub of the home' kitchen with a fine range of units (various integrated appliances), reapointed shower room, lounge with bay, walk in store, two double bedrooms, gardens. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £150,000

PRICE: £145,000

£144,950

New price WAS £143,000...NOW £139,250

Offers in the region of £129,950



LOWER GORNAL, Shadwell Drive

A delightfully presented semi-detached property situated in the popular Lower Gornal area of Dudley. Benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating, this good-sized starter home also comprises of; entrance hall, guest W/C, living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and ample off road parking. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Corser Street

An EXTENDED and reconfigured gas centrally heated part UPVC/ part Aluminium double glazed semi detached for improvement occupying a wide plot (with potential) and comprising porch, hall, 25ft through living room (previously separate rooms), enlarged 13'9" kitchen, lobby, former wet room, three bedrooms, recently reapointed bathroom with white suite, parking and garden. EPC Rating D, SEDGLEY.



WOODSETTON, Brook Street

A tastefully presented traditional three storey terrace benefiting from central heating and double glazing and situated in the sought after Woodsetton area of Dudley. Comprising of entrance hall this good-sized family home also boasts; living room, dining room, guest W/C, re-fitted breakfast-kitchen, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, Duncroft Walk

Favourably situated in the Woodsetton area of Dudley and enjoying a leafy open aspect to the front, this FREEHOLD semi-detached property offers great potential. This good-sized family home benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, garage, part double glazing, gas central heating and has NO UPWARD CHAIN. (COAL MINING REPORT AVAILABLE). EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY



UPPER GORNAL, Sunnybank Road

SPACIOUS gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached WITH POTENTIAL in popular district. Having been conscientiously maintained over the years but now requiring some sympathetic updating the accommodation offering reception hall, store, through living room, dining room, Kitchen, WC, further store. Three double bedrooms, bathroom, wide corner plot with sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £127,500

Offers in the region of £125,000

Offers in the region of £124,950

New price WAS £124,950...NOW £120,000

Offers in the Region of £115,000



TIPTON, Bloomfield Road

A fantastically presented family home situated in the Tipton area and comprising of central heating and double glazing. This deceptively sized intermediate property has entrance hallway, living room, kitchen-diner, attractive and modern shower room, THREE BEDROOMS, garden to front with garden and driveway to rear. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Sandyfields Road

A most conveniently situated UPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR FLAT within reasonable distance of so many day to day amenities, bus route, country park etc. Requiring some sympathetic updating the accommodation includes entrance vestibule, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom.. Allocated garden, GARAGE - short lease. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.



PENSNETT, Rookery Park

THIS MOST APPEALING & SPACIOUS, TRADITIONAL STYLE, THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises; Initial Hall, Pleasant Lounge, Spacious Breakfast Kitchen, Three Good First Floor Bedrooms, Re-Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Rear Garden. EPC:



PENSNETT, Birds Meadow

THIS MOST APPEALING & SPACIOUS, TRADITIONAL, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises; Hall, Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Rear Veranda, Two / Three Bedrooms, Re-Appointed Wet Room, Rear Garden with lovely distant views! NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D



DUDLEY, Caroline Street

THIS PERIOD STYLE, THREE BEDROOM HOME, would ideally suit FIRST TIME BUYERS or BUY TO-LET INVESTORS and is available for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Comprising: Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Lovely Garden. EPC D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Offers in the region of £105,000

£99,950

New price £94,950

New price £75,950

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121 TIPTON ROAD, WOODSETTON O/A £365,000

- Beautifully presented three bedroom traditional style detached house
- Substantial two storey rear extension, extended living room, extended breakfast kitchen
- Enviously positioned overlooking open countryside and farm land
- Attractively landscaped front & rear gardens with ample off road parking
- EPC RATING D



131 TIPTON ROAD, WOODSETTON O/A £339,500

- An impressive traditional detached residence backing onto protected fields
- Improved and enhanced yet still retaining lots of character
- Four good size bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom
- Two reception rooms, conservatory, impressive enlarged breakfast kitchen
- EPC RATING F



LAND AT TIVIDALE STREET/DUDLEY PORT O/A £210,000

- Level site with work shop
- Outline planning consent
- Planning App No: DC/14/57543
- Convenient location



73 THE BROADWAY, DUDLEY O/A £315,000

- Beautifully presented and extended four bedroom family home
- Spacious well proportioned high quality accommodation
- Impressive hallway, two reception rooms, farmhouse style kitchen
- Rarely does a property of this quality come to the market
- EPC RATING D



46 BHYLLS LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON O/A £220,000

- Traditional well proportioned three bedroom semi detached house
- Extensively renovated and improved throughout
- External insulated wall cladding, re-wired and re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
- Good sized rear garden with useful brick built utility room/play room with w.c
- EPC RATING C



ST JAMES STREET £189,950

- LOWER GORNAL
- Five new build detached bungalows
- Two parking spaces per plot
- Fully fitted kitchen with breakfast bar
- Spacious living/dining room with french window
- PREDICTED EPC TBC



42 WALLOWOOD £185,000

- LOWER GORNAL
- Well maintained three bedroom semi detached house
- Occupying a pleasant & popular cul de sac location
- Private south west facing rear garden
- Descriptive accommodation with utility room & rear conservatory
- EPC RATING D



47 CEDAR AVENUE, COSELEY O/A £169,960

- Attractively presented & well proportioned traditional semi detached house
- Three bedrooms, separate lounge & dining room, conservatory
- Enlarged & re-fitted kitchen with extensive range of units
- Private rear garden & situated on the popular Bramford housing estate
- EPC RATING C



58 RUITON STREET O/A £139,950

- GORNAL
- Modern end of terrace residence
- Two double bedrooms
- Breakfast kitchen, dining conservatory
- Easily maintained rear garden
- EPC RATING C



16 ROWAN ROAD £129,950

- NEW
- SEDGLEY
- Semi detached house
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge & dining room
- Utility room & ground floor w.c.
- EPC RATING D

Small development of new houses
Initial release of three terraced houses with three bedrooms
Will be completed to a high standard throughout
Help to buy available on all properties
Prices from £164,950
PREDICTED EPC RATING TBC



1 GOLDBOROUGH CLOSE O/A £125,000

- COSELEY
- Modern end terrace house
- Corner position with two allocated parking spaces
- Three bedrooms
- Excellent opportunity for first time buyers/investors
- EPC RATING D

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Large modern property in sought after location

KINGSWINFORD
£289,950

<<<

A very large modern detached family home in Balfour Road, Kingswinford, is well placed within the sought after Blanford Mere, in a superb end position adjoining established trees and the open green to the side.

It is for sale through Taylors at £289,950.

Its position enhances the incredibly spacious layout. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, large lounge with walk-in bay, a dining room, an attractively fitted kitchen with an island, ground floor WC, excellent store, three double bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room and house bathroom.

It has a paved driveway with a large detached garage and a pleasantly secluded rear garden with patio, decking and lawn.

Contact Taylors on 01384 401777 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



Extended detached is immaculate

AMBLECOTE
£220,000

An immaculately presented and impressively extended semi-detached family home in this popular and convenient location, 1 Allan Close, Amblecote, is close to local amenities.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £220,000.

It briefly comprises a large lounge, separate dining room, fully fitted extended dining kitchen, four well proportioned bedrooms with the master having a large full en-suite bathroom, a shower room and extremely spacious garage with an electric door. It also has gas central heating, double glazing, a spacious blocked driveway and wide easily maintained gardens. In more detail the lounge has laminate-style flooring and a living flame gas fire.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



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20TH OCTOBER 2016

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87 Broadway, Walsall
3 Bedroom Detached Property
Guide: £195,000 - £225,000



19 Prince Street, Dudley
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced Property
Guide: £60,000 - £65,000



75 Pinfold Lane, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £150,000 plus



33a Lawnside Green, Bilston
1 Bed Ground Floor Flat
Guide: £44,000 - £48,000



50 Lewis Street, Great Bridge
3 Bedroom End Terraced Property
Guide: £45,000 plus



29 Leys Road, Brierly Hill
2 Bedroom End Terraced Property
Guide: £50,000 - £55,000



3 Chapel Walk, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £75,000 plus



57 Hurstbourne Cres., Wolverhampton
4 Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £75,000 plus

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***For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website



Detached property has five bedrooms

BRIERLEY HILL

£219,950

This splendid, modern, detached, family home in Terrace Street, Brierley Hill, is on a private drive, set back about 45 metres from the road.

The five-bedroomed home is on the market with Trinity Property and offers of £219,950 are invited.

From the entrance hall, there are stairs to the first floor, a door to the downstairs WC, a large under-stairs cupboard and further doors to a large lounge, dining room and a spacious modern fitted kitchen.

On the first floor the landing has an airing cupboard and further doors to five good sized bedrooms.

The master bedroom has an en-suite shower/WC room off. There is also a large bathroom.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213 395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net



Bungalow on corner plot has generous-sized accommodation

HALESOWEN

£325,000

<<<

The Drive in Halesowen, is a generously proportioned detached bungalow situated on a large corner plot approximately quarter of acre with gated driveway.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £325,000.

Conveniently located, close to Halesowen town centre and transport links, the accommodation briefly comprises of a fully fitted kitchen, a large utility, a guest WC, two reception rooms, three spacious bedrooms, a bathroom and gas central heating, double glazing where specified.

The lower floor has a large garage, two work shops and the home further benefits from having large garden to front and rear with various patio areas, driveway with parking leading to garage.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit www.hickshadley.com

Property



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*SOURCE: JICREG 01.04.2014

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star



Two bedrooms in first floor over 55s apartment

With this property in Gardner's Meadow, Bewdley, the property comprises the top three right hand windows (including the balcony) plus the middle basement garage in the main photograph .

This is a spacious larger-style two-bedroom first floor over 55s retirement apartment in a wonderful setting with direct views over the River Severn.

BEWDLEY

£164,950

It is also just a short walk from Bewdley's vibrant and historic town centre, with plentiful amenities.

Deserving of a viewing, it is for sale through Phipps & Pritchard

with McCartneys at £164,950. There is also an unexpectedly large 24ft garage with an electric door and private block-paved driveway.

Interested parties are being urged to contact Phipps & Pritchard with McCartneys to arrange a viewing on 01299 822026 as quickly as possible.



Stunning country retreat with vast living space

ROCK
£799,000

Berwyn House, Bliss Gate Road, Rock is an outstanding country residence with 2,800 sq.ft of accommodation, with just over four acres including a paddock of around 2.37 acres.

It is for sale through Allan Morris at £799,000 with no chain. It has potential ancillary accommodation above the garage, a stunning 26ft dining room plus a separate sitting room, a breakfast kitchen with solid oak cabinets, drawing room with a feature fireplace, six bedrooms and two bathrooms, outbuildings, summerhouse and double garage and original features throughout. The double gated access to Berwyn house offers a wonderful approach along a sweeping driveway laid to gravel, passing extensive lawns to either side.

Contact Allan Morris on 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



Extended and beautifully refurbished four bedroom home

KINVER
£320,000

<<<

This successfully extended detached four bedroom family home in Maple Close, Kinver, has been beautifully refurbished to high standards.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at £320,000.

It has an entrance hall, guest WC, lounge open through to the open plan kitchen and dining room complete with stylish island unit, integrated appliances and bi-fold doors across the full width of the room, utility room.

Off the first floor landing are three double bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes, and the modern house bathroom with a free standing bath and separate shower cubicle, a master suite with tonnes of built-in storage and an en-suite shower room.

Contact The Property Shop on 01384 444645 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk

K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 4TH OCTOBER 2016



29 PATRICIA CRESCENT, WOODSETTON

On a prominent and large corner plot. Gas CH., majority Double Glazing, Canopy Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Store, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, W.C, Large outdoor Store with light and power. EPC: D64

Guide: £88,000 / £93,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER & 1st OCTOBER @ 11.30 a.m.



37 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

An immaculately presented First Floor Flat recently modernised to a high standard. Impressive Kitchen, Lounge with lovely rear outlook, Two Bedrooms, smart up-to-date Shower Room with white fittings

Garage. EPC: E.48

£48,000 / £53,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER & 1st OCTOBER @ 11.00 a.m.



4 WAITE ROAD, WILLENHALL

Ripe for modernisation – within an established residential area Three Bed Semi., Bathroom, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Lobby, WC., Coals, part Gas CH. EPC:E53

Guide: £62,000 / £68,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER & 1st OCTOBER @ 10.00 a.m.



4 CHURCHFIELD AVENUE, TIPTON

Spacious Ground Floor Flat now needing upgrade.

Communal Hall, private Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, WC Gas CH., Parking. EPC: E52

Guide: £27,000 / £30,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER & 1st OCTOBER @ 10.30 a.m.



FLAT 2, CHAPEL COURT, CHAPEL STREET, PENSNETT (access via main entrance r/o St. James' Church Hall)

Ground Floor Flat within a convenient location Private Hallway with entry 'phone, large light Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, large Double Bedroom, private parking. EPC: D.56

Guide: £48,000 / £53,000

VIEWING
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER & 1st OCTOBER @ 12.30 p.m.



FOX'S LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Near City Centre – an enclosed area of Land with 75ft.(approx) frontage.

Double entrance gates to Fox's Lane – understood to comprise 0.08 acre (approx).

Recently used with an Operator's Licence for HGV's

Guide: £15,000 / £20,000

VIEW ON SITE

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK. PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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Comfort and practicality

By John Griffiths

Visit almost any European city and you'll probably be taken aback by the sheer numbers of scooters on the road.

The advantages are obvious: they're small enough to nip in and out of traffic, easy to park, cheap to run and offer more weather protection than a typical motorcycle.

But in recent years bigger, more powerful examples of the genre seem to have catered for a pent up demand for personal transport which will keep up with traffic on bypasses and even the motorway, and offer even higher levels of comfort and practicality.

Many manufacturers have produced scooters with the performance edging that of a middleweight bike, but Piaggio broke the mould when it launch its innovative MP3: a three wheeler designed to get drivers out of their cars (and the traffic jams).

And the flagship is £7,736 MP3 500, which comes in 'business' and 'sport' styles and, because of its third wheel, is the only 500 you can drive on a standard car licence.

That's one advantage: another is its extra stability and its extraordinary front steering and suspension system: Piaggio's own invention which allows the MP3 to corner quickly and competently with eye-popping lean angles.

With third-wheel stability, the MP2 doesn't feel heavy to handle at a crawl or when pushing backwards from a parking spot, as some similar-sized machines do.

The new MP3 has added safety features, with a traction control system to avoid wheel-

spin and slides on the rear (driven) wheel and anti-lock brakes for safer stopping – plus it has disc brakes on all three 13-inch alloy wheels.

This latest version has been modified to provide more room in the rider's seat/handlebars/footboard triangle, with big, comfortable seats for the rider and passenger, with low but well-positioned backrest cushions for maximum comfort. An even softer gel saddle is an option, generous.

Pillion passengers get a generous amount of space, too.

Comfortable

Progress on the road is particularly smooth, thanks both to the suspension and the fuel injection system with 'fly by wire' throttle system.

On my test run along a dual carriageway it made short work of accelerating up to 70mph, and felt comfortable holding there, with the large, height adjustable screen doing an excellent job of deflecting the wind blast.

With plenty of power in reserve, the engine runs quietly and is barely audible above the usual wind in the helmet noise.

The advertised top speed is 89mph and I'm sure it would reach that (if it was legal) but its capability and comfort on the test ride convinced me that a long motorway run would be somewhat less physically stressful than some bikes.

The 40bhp, four-stroke engine has been completely revamped, with the accent on increasing torque at low revs for quicker, smoother acceleration off the mark, while it's also more economical. Riders can change the engine mapping at the touch of a button to economy mode for even better fuel efficiency.

The tilting forks at the front can be locked



or unlocked at the flick of a switch so that – with practice – the rider rarely has to put a foot down as the bike comes to a halt. But it is a skill you have to develop – for example as soon as you touch the throttle the lock disengages, so you don't want to be half-hearted about it or it could prove embarrassing and costly.

As someone more used to bikes, putting a foot down seems much more natural – espe-

cially as the low (790) seat means most riders should easily manage that. But the MP3 is also equipped with a handbrake, so in combination with locked forks you don't really need to bother with the side stand when parking.

The lockable luggage compartment under the seat is plenty big enough to hold two helmets, and has a courtesy light plus a 12 volt power socket,

The conventional two-dial instrument panel is supplemented by a multifunction digital display with a comprehensive trip computer and, higher up (just below the screen) there's a slim panel housing an array of warning lights including main beam, oil pressure and so on.

A Piaggio multimedia platform is an add-on system which allows owners to link a smart phone to the scooter and its systems.

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VAUXHALL

Viva sporty Suzuki Vitara

By Anthony Martyn

Suzuki's Vitara line-up has proved highly successful including the S model, a more sporting and dynamic character.

Standard equipment for all Vitara models in the range is comprehensive and includes seven airbags, alloy wheels, DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth connectivity, cruise control with speed limiter, auto air conditioning and front and rear electric windows.

The S model has 17-inch black alloy wheels, unique grille design, satin silver door mirrors, LED headlamps with red projector covers, rear upper spoiler and black side body mouldings. Inside the sporting theme continues with red interior stitching, red accents for air conditioning vent and instruments and aluminium alloy pedals.

The S model was the first Suzuki that utilises the new BOOSTERJET technology engine which in Vitara is a 140PS 1.4-litre Direct Injection turbocharged unit (DITC). This new engine has compact dimensions and offers 220Nm of torque available from just 1,500rpm through to 4,000rpm.

The BOOSTERJET engine is a Suzuki unit that is characterised by improved fuel efficiency and driving pleasure that has been made possible by using a small displacement, high torque turbocharger. By controlling the wastegate valve, which closes to create higher boost pressure during heavy load operation and remains open during normal driving, the system reduces pumping loss, thus achieving high levels of both power and fuel-efficiency.

During development, Suzuki's engineers virtually eliminated the typical delay in turbo power delivery or 'lag' by installing the specially developed compact turbo charger.

Historically, power and torque delivery from a turbocharged engine would not have been available until much higher engine speeds, offering less flexibility to the driver.

The 1.4-litre engine offers strong benefits in performance too with a 0-62mph acceleration time of 10.2 seconds for both manual and automatic transmissions and a maximum speed, where permitted, of 124mph.

A six-speed manual transmission is fitted as standard for the new 1.4-litre BOOSTERJET engine with optimised gear ratios to help provide a good combination of performance and fuel economy. Additional measures include a shift lever counterweight to help provide a smooth, positive shift action.

A six-speed auto transmission is available optionally which has a wide gear ratio range to permit precise driver control and help provide quick response at low vehicle speeds. The transmission has an expanded lockup range to promote good acceleration, high fuel economy and low levels of NVH. Additionally, a manual mode is fitted to enable the driver to change gear using shift paddles behind the steering wheel.

The Vitara's CO2 emissions are low thanks to the use of high tensile steel and other weight saving measures in the body. This has resulted in the Vitara being one of the lightest SUV's in its class at just 1,210 kg for the S model with manual transmission.

An engine auto stop start system is also used which shuts down the engine when stationary.

Four-wheel drive is typically seen as detrimental to fuel economy and emissions



Suzuki's ALLGRIP system enables CO2 emissions that are remarkably low for a four-wheel drive SUV

performance. By contrast, Suzuki's ALLGRIP system enables CO2 emissions that are remarkably low for a four-wheel drive SUV. CO2 emissions for the S model with its standard ALLGRIP system and manual transmission is 127g/km and just one gram higher for the optional auto transmission.

Suzuki's ALLGRIP system is fitted as standard on the S model. It has four driver-selectable modes for safe, enjoyable driving on diverse surfaces. During development, the Vitara ALLGRIP system was enhanced by the addition of a feed forward function that allocates torque to the rear

wheels before any slippage can occur. The system has four driver-selectable modes which are auto, sport, snow and lock. On conventional full time 4WD vehicles, feedback control allocates torque to the rear wheels after detecting front wheel drive slippage. On Vitara, as well as offering feedback control it also offers feed forward control that anticipates slippage based on road surface, throttle opening position, steering angle and other factors. In summary, rather than reacting after grip is lost, it controls the vehicle to prevent grip from being lost which results in greater stability.

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New landmark for a Black Country family dealership

Commercial feature

After forty years in the Dudley Borough, it's an anniversary of a different kind for one of the Black Country's longest established dealerships.

Following a move from its former site on Wellington Road in Dudley, the business has recently celebrated its first year at its new purpose-built sales centre in Old Hill, Halesowen.

Founded by Colin Nash in 1975 and joined in the business by sons Warwick and James Nash in 1994, the company's standards remain as high as today as they were 40 years ago with a real effort to source only the finest used cars in the marketplace.

Situated on Station Road, just off the Old Hill by-pass, the new sales centre certainly gives the business more scope as it continues to expand.

In addition to carrying more stock and offering greater choice and value, customers also benefit from a wider choice of finance options including cashback, nil deposit and payments over 36, 48 and 60 months.

A quick chat with Warwick reveals that the firm's longevity is not the only aspect that separates the firm from the rest of the crowd.

"We are one of the only independent dealerships that has its own in-house service centre, this really does give our cus-



tomers base a sense of reassurance knowing that our cars are being prepared to the highest standards."

"Every vehicle in stock is supplied with a full service, full Mot, warranty plan and HPI check to give the customer complete peace of mind."

James has identified a noticeable upturn in repeat custom over recent years. "From day one, dad has always stressed the importance of customer service as well as quality

Relocation has seen increased sales at the new purpose-built site in Old Hill, Halesowen



of product and Warwick and I have taken that on board."

"What we have found really encouraging, along with increased sales is the amount of returning customers who have already visited us at the new sales centre."

With a reputation that has been built up over four decades, a real commitment to its customer base and a newly acquired site, we think it's safe to say Delph Garage looks more than well equipped to serve

the Black Country car market and it's surrounding areas for many years to come.

Delph Garage is open six days a week and has a newly launched mobile and tablet friendly website featuring all its current stock and finance options.

For more information on what Delph can offer visit www.delphgarage.co.uk

● Pictured above: James, Colin and Warwick Nash and the Delph Garage site, Station Road, Old Hill.



- White
- Leather
- Sat Nav
- Sensors
- Alloys

59 KUGA DCi TITANIUM £8995



- Grey
- Air Con
- Cruise
- Fogs
- Alloys

11 INSIGNIA 1.8 SRi £5495



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- Sat Nav
- Sensors
- Alloys

12 MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC TDCi £7495



- Black
- Air Con
- Cruise
- Spoiler
- Alloys

11 ASTRA 2.0 CDTi SRi £5295



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- Leather
- Sat Nav
- Air Con
- Alloys

13 DS3 1.2 DSGN £6995



- White
- Air Con
- Sat Nav
- Spoiler
- Alloys

11 FOCUS 1.6 SPORT £5695

13 CITROEN DS3 1.2 DESIGN 3-dr, White, Half Leather, Sat Nav, Air Con, Cruise, Spoiler, Alloys, 26k, FSH..... **£6995**

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59 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 VISIA Flash Red, Air Con, MP3 Facility, Coded Bumpers, Fogs, Alloys, 60k, FSH..... **£5995**

09 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi TEKNA Blue Metallic, Full Black Leather, Panoramic Roof, Roof Rails, Alloys, FSH..... **£6695**

59 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE COUPE White, Air Con, MP3 Facility, Fogs, Alloys, 58k, FSH..... **£4295**

61 SEAT LEON 1.2 S EMOCION 5-dr, White, Air Con, MP3 Facility, Fogs, Alloys, 29k, FSH..... **£5995**

62 SKODA FABIA 1.2 MONTE CARLO 5-dr, White, Half Leather, Sat Nav, Cruise, Alloys, Fogs, 41k, FSH..... **£5995**

11 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi SRi 5-dr, Black Metallic, Air Con, Cruise, MP3 Facility, Fogs, Alloys, Superb MPG..... **£5295**

12 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRi 5-dr, Grey Metallic, Air Con, Cruise, MP3 Facility, Fogs, Alloys, 46k, FSH..... **£5995**

60 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 5-dr, Grey Metallic, Elec. Pack, MP3 Facility, Fogs, Alloys, Low Ins., 47k, FSH..... **£3995**

09 VW BEETLE 1.4 LUNA Black Metallic, Elec. Pack, MP3 Facility, Fogs, Alloys, Low Ins., 40k..... **£4295**



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- Fogs
- Alloys

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- MP3
- Fogs
- Alloys

60 MINI 1.6 COOPER £5695



- Grey
- Air Con
- MP3
- Fogs
- Alloys

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- White
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- MP3
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Rexton is a top package

The Rexton is SsangYong's flagship sport utility vehicle (SUV), and is greatly enhanced with the addition of an upgraded Euro 6 compliant powertrain.

In addition to the new 2.2 litre Euro 6 diesel engine, Rexton also gets the choice of a 6-speed manual transmission or new Mercedes-Benz 7-speed automatic.

The newly developed e-XDi220 diesel engine meets the demand for a more powerful performance and lower CO2 emissions at the same time. Maximum power is increased to 178ps and torque to 400Nm – up by 15 per cent and 11 per cent respectively over the previous Euro 5 diesel 2.0 litre engine. Maximum torque is delivered from a low of 1,400rpm and maintained through a wide range up to 2,800rpm for smooth, progressive driving.

Big strides have also been made

with CO2 emissions which have been reduced to 184g/km, down from 196g/km on the previous manual transmission model, while fuel economy is considerably improved and now up to 40mpg (combined cycle) compared with 38.2mpg on the model it replaces.

"This is a significant step up for the Rexton," says Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong UK. "The power upgrade and new 7-speed automatic bring greater refinement, while the car continues to deliver unrivalled levels of equipment for the price, and is backed by a comprehensive five year limitless mileage warranty for complete peace of mind."

Built on a steel ladder chassis and with a three tonne towing capacity, the 2016 SsangYong Rexton is a serious off-roader and tow-car, yet with all the equipment and creature comforts expected of an urban cruiser.

Noted for being extremely capable off-road, the Rexton uses a body on frame construction for maximum

strength. It has double wishbone and coil spring suspension to the front, and a five link rigid axle with coil springs at the rear, while the EX auto and ELX models feature multi-link rear suspension for an even more comfortable ride.

With either the 6-speed manual or 7-speed Mercedes-Benz automatic transmission, the driver can select low range when going off road which splits the torque equally between the front and rear axles to provide all round traction, and ensures optimum grip across the most challenging terrain.

Available with either five or seven seats, the Rexton range is comprehensively equipped with the range topping ELX featuring a luxurious beige/grey leather interior, new multi-function leather covered steering wheel, distinctive 18" Diamond cut alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, front and rear parking sensors, auto-dipping rear view mirror, heated rear seats and Sat Nav.

Prices start from £22,995.

09/09 Range Rover Sport 2.7 TDV6 Diesel SE 5dr Automatic, 74k, Green, Alloys, Black leather, Sat-Nav, Climate Control, CD, E/Windows £16995 / POA	08/08 Honda Civic Type-R 2.0 i-VTEC 3dr, 51k, Bronze Metallic, Purple Metallic Alloys, Push Button Start, CD Player, Electric Windows £6495 / £33 Per Week
09/59 Jaguar XF 3.0DV6 Luxury Diesel 4dr Automatic, ONLY 35k miles, ONE Owner, Ultimate Black, Alloys, Black Leather, Sat-Nav, Climate Control, CD, E/Windows £13995 / POA	10/10 Fiat Doblo 1.4 8V Dynamic High Roof 5dr Mobility Wheelchair Access Vehicle, 39k, Red, Wheelchair Access Ramp, Alloys, CD, E/Windows £6495 / £33 Per Week
10/10 Mercedes C220 CDI Diesel Blue EFFICIENCY Elegance 4dr Automatic, ONLY 36k miles, Grey Metallic, Alloys, Black Leather, Heated Seats, Climate Control, CD, E/Windows £12495 / POA	09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr, ONLY 26k Miles, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, Electric Windows £5795 / £30 Per Week
08/57 Audi TT 2.0T FSI 2dr S Tronic Convertible Automatic, 55k, Red Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, E/Roof, E/Windows £10495 / £56 Per Week	10/10 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDi Sport 60k, Mauve with White Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows £4995 / £28 Per Week
07/57 Mercedes SLK 200K 1.8 2dr Tip Hard-top Convertible Automatic, 56k, Blue, Alloys, Cream Leather, Heated Seats, CD, E/Roof £9495 / £50 Per Week	07/07 Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC ES 5dr with Panoramic Roof, ONLY 47k miles, Blue, Alloys, Push Button Start, Air Con, CD, Dual Climate Control, E/Windows £4995 / £28 Per Week
13/63 Dacia Duster 1.5 DCi Diesel 4X4 Laureate ONLY 22k miles, White, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, E/Windows £8495 / £47 Per Week	09/58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design 5dr Automatic, 45k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Air-Con, CD, E/Windows £4495 / £23 Per Week
12/12 Mini Cooper Coupe 3dr, ONLY 26k miles, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Cream Leather, Air Con, E/Windows, CD Player £8495 / £47 Per Week	08/58 Toyota Auris 1.6 VVTi SR 5dr, 75k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, E/Windows £3695 / £20 Per Week
09/09 Audi A4 2.0 TDI Diesel 143 SE 5dr Multitronic Auto Estate, 88k, Black, Alloys, Digital Air Con, CD, E/Windows £8495 / £47 Per Week	08/58 Fiat Bravo 1.9 Multijet Diesel Dynamic 5dr, 61k, Blue, Alloys, CD, Air-Con, E/Windows £3495 / £18 Per Week
08/08 Mercedes C Class C180K 1.8 Elegance 5dr Automatic Estate, 80k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Heated Seats, CD, Climate Control, E/Windows £7495 / £38 Per Week	02/02 Smart City-Coupe Smart and Pulse Automatic 64k, Black Alloy, Black Leather, Heated Seats, Panoramic Glass Roof, CD, E/Windows £1995

Finance example: 09/58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design, Cash Price £4495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 monthly Payments of £99.60 (£22.98 per week) Total amount payable £6276.00 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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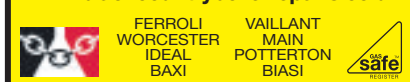
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CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

TALL, slim and curvy woman, 57, attractive with GSOH and varied interests, seeks similar man 50-65 Bristol area, for discreet assignments. **Text only Mailbox: 5546538**

DIANE, loving and caring, young 72 year old, blond hair, brown eyes, smoker, looking for a genuine male with gosh, for friendship, Walsall area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 4242025**

ELLA, 46, slim confident brunette, tired of spending lonely nights alone, seeking honest, romantic male to enjoy his life out, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424015**

JANE, attractive blonde lady, genuine, sincere, likes theatre, meals out, looking to meet nice looking professional single man. **Text only Mailbox: 55192**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423990**

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 42257**

LYN, 39yrs, dark hair and blue eyes, WLTm action man of an age for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423899**

JENNY, looking for a man, 45-55, for adult fun, must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827**

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679**

LINDA, blonde green eyed lady with nice figure, likes gym, meals out, music, looking for male to enjoy fun times, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423879**

SUSAN divorced female 44, OHAC, no ties, loves to keep fit and look good, WLTm mature guy to fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423849**

DORRIE, 39, sporty, fun, hardworking professional, seeks similar male to help live on weekends and make her laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423885**

BERNIE, 42yr old female, sophisticated, genuine, attractive, no ties, OHAC, looking for honest man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423853**

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679**

SUE, 58, feminine lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong-minded male, I have so many interests please call to hear them. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423577**

RUTH, 41, single mum fed up with child play, looking for adult relationship with attractive loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423629**

SINGLE, broadminded female, 28, large breasted, seeks gent any age for discreet no strings adult fun. Looks unimportant. **Text only Mailbox: 5526652**

AUTHORITATIVE demanding lady 54, requires servile male for household duties any age. **Text only Mailbox: 5527306**

Single Men

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IAN, 5ft8, medium build, OHAC, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, WLTm similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. **Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box 421345**

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. **Box: 4138405**

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747**

STEVE, 53yr old male, laid back, likes most things in life, seeks female 40-50, for evenings out, needs some TLC in my life. **Text only Mailbox: 4362854**

WHITE curvy lady any age, required by handsome black professional male, for discreet casual adult fun. No time wasters pls. **Text only Mailbox: 5066605**

ROB, 63, 6ft, slim, own hair own teeth, young at heart, considered good looking, OHAC, solvent, so get back if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424027**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 438259**

HELLO I am an easy going chap and I WLTm a lady, 55-60 for permanent relationship, so please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424131**

64 year old male, living in Northampton, WLTm a lady between 60-75, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419929**

TONY from Walsall, mid 50s, stocky build, looking to meet a lady any age/looks/race to have fun times with, so please get in touch if you're interested. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424067**

MALE looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTm an honest attractive caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

MALE 40s, own business, professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

SEAN mixed race 44, seeks female, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392363**

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177**

MALE 43 slim, non-smoker, open minded, looking for naughty liaisons with a naughty minded lady for naughty fun only. **Text only Mailbox: 5543476**

40YR old easy going guy, athletic and loves life is looking for some fun with a like-minded girl. **Text only Mailbox: 5545609**

MARK 6ft, grey hair, 49, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381454**

JOHN, looking for a mature lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423789**

MALE, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTm a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

47 year old guy, lots of interests, seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423997**

PROFESSIONAL male, been hurt before, looking for female, 30-42, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423991**

MALE, young looking 70, 5ft8, decent looking, down to earth, likes horses, driving, holidays, good company, looking for female partner to share nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423909**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

ATTRACTIVE open-minded male 57, seeks open-minded female any age or status to share adult times. **Text only Mailbox: 5410860**

YOUNG 66-year old attractive male would love to meet lovely lady for friendship, to enjoy meals out etc. **Text only Mailbox: 5536750**

MALE 44, WLTm lady/single mum for friendship, maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 5535244**

MALE, attractive, tall, medium build and intelligent would like to meet genuine mature caring lady who wishes for a sincere relationship. **Text only Mailbox: 5537519**

WELL made broad male, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for some adult fun with lovely sexy lady for possible LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5321154**

MALE, retired, genuine, easy going, looking for a lady, 70s, who is honest with a GSOH, must be genuine and local to Coventry area, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423959**

MALE, single and handsome looking for an attractive blonde who likes socialising between age 33 and 46 for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5535777**

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CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone numbers are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app. wic 26/09/16

Customer support

Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

http://dating.expressandstar.com

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone numbers are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app. wic 26/09/16

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

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- 10 Personals

FreeAds

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

For items up to **£250**
VISIT:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878

8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

Online
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

In person

At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm
Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

funeral directors

J.R. JONES

Lower Gornal 01902 880040

DAINTY & DOWNING

Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service
www.nedowning.co.uk

1

Family

education & tuition

FULL TIME PRIVATE TUTOR
(four hours per day, four days per week)
Required for 10 years old with Dyslexia.
Must be qualified and experienced as a Teacher for this age group (KS2) in the three key stage areas and with special needs.
Wolverhampton area.
07539 953700.

elderly & disabled

Capitol Mobility-Bilston
ARE YOU ON DLA OR PIP?
YOU COULD HAVE A SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR ON WEEKLY TERMS!
01902 409929
www.capitolmobility.co.uk

MOBILITY SCOOTER 8MPH
As new!! Only used a couple of times. Top of the range immaculate condition. cost £2595 accept £895.
07493 645993.

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Four wheeled scooter in very good condition. Fits easily in a car boot. Great for shopping and days out. Can deliver.
£265
07905 770683

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

car boot sales

CAR BOOT SALES!
Every Sunday
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane,
Lichfield, WS14 0BE
Booters £4
6.00am-2pm
07538 842842

COL'S CAR BOOT & MARKET
OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
at Hrimley Bypass, B4176
Ring Colin: 07973 904585
www.colscarboot.co.uk
@colscarboot
OPEN ALL YEAR

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
Caravans 35x12 DG. & CH from £15,000. 11 month holiday season. 01584823433. www.bcpark.co.uk

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

TOYOTA HIACE CAMPER P reg. Mot till March 17, diesel, blue and silver, excellent condition, £4,000. 01902 791340 after 6pm.
TRISTAR 4-BERTH touring caravan, sale due to illness. 07867 801369.
WILLERBY VOGUE, DG and CH, sided North Wales, quick sale, fees paid for season. 07590 124226.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED Cash on pick up asap.
Caravan wanted.
Call me on 07717090817

music shop

RECORDS/CDS/MEMORABILIA wanted & sold 50% - 90% Record shop Wolves wv1 3hl 07760168972

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items up to £250.
Online at
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

bouncy castles

BOUNCY CASTLE HIRE Jump-Jens.co.uk Professional inflatable hire, fully insured. 079700 24953

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks' Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 97501 All hard standing

3

Home & Services

carpets & furnishings

WALNUT DISPLAY cabinet, pristine condition, £250. Three sets of cream curtains 3ftx7ft, lined, various prices. 01902 703528 Coven.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER excellent condition. £85. Can deliver.
07766 773231.

in your garden

A ABSOLUTE beautiful cultivated lawn turf, grown locally, next day delivery from £1.50 per roll. 01902 453794 / 0844 3350820.

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/fit. Free Quotes. 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU 01902 723910 453794 / 0844 3350820.

2 CONCRETE castletops fencing, 2 gravel boards, 6ft, plus 3 posts. £50. 01902 337990/07951 533963.

furniture

BROWN CORDUROY 3 piece suite, 8 months old, excellent condition, £300 ono. 01384 348971

NEXT 3 seater sofa, coffee/cream striped, £250. Oak veneer sideboard with matching nest of 3 tables, £75. 01902 593652.

TEAK CIRCULAR table, extending to oval, 4 matching chairs, as new, £35. 01902 894593.

PUBLIC NOTICE FINE FURNITURE ONLINE RETAILER NOW IN LIQUIDATION FRANK BOSWORTH FURNITURE LIQUIDATION SALE

Open Sunday 10-4
£685,000 at a fraction of RRP
Chelsea Was £1199 NOW £599
Sally Was £89 NOW £49
Wentworth Was £1599 NOW £899
Milan Was £369 NOW £199

BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGROVE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.
WPT 444 & 446 FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVER!
0121 557 6885
MON-SAT 10-6PM SUN 10-4PM

TEAK COCKTAIL cabinet and 2 drawer TV cabinet, £10 each. 01902 894593.

WHITE KITCHEN table and 2 stools, beech surround with tiles, as new, £35. 01902 894593.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY • Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang. Best prices paid. Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS ANTIQUE GUNS, TAXIDERMY - BIG BORE GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED.
07968 624202

ALL COLLECTIBLES from wars wanted by collector, medals, helmets, swords etc, cash paid. 07511 500337.

OLD POCKET and wrist watches wanted, all conditions, also menders clearances, parts, etc. 01746 765278. 07773 345218.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 5 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME
I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
www.cheekstrade.co.uk

ALAN JONES
THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
Est 1955 - 59 years at the top! Recommended by thousands Genuine, honest, 100% reliable. WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO. Call: 01902 885985 ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Free-view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Microw. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

driveways & patios

PAVERITE
• Leaders in block paving, slabbing, drives and patios.
• All kinds of paving undertaken.
• We also specialise in fencing, walls, concrete print and re-sealings.
• No hidden extras and we do not cut corners.
Call now for your
FREE QUOTE on: 07398 640513

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession prices. Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

domestic cleaning

CLEAN FOR YOU (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast.
Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc, Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 days of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards, HEAVY DUTY PANES SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, Wbury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

A BARGAIN AT BUSHBURY
FENCING/GATES LTD. Supply/fit. WV10 9QC. Call 07816 863910.

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...

Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Prestwood Cave Nurseries, Wolverhampton Rd, Prestwood DY7 5AN
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

gas fitting

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs. All areas covered. J&E Heating.
Call John:
01902 562664
/07969 687832

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers
• Cookers
• Fires
• Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed. Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07847 621047
0121 6010479

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causser.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

LOCK AND CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, slabbing and roofing 01902 683100 or 07935 906384.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

YMCA REQUIRE FURNITURE Free Collection. Telephone 01384 231714 for details.

oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

OVENBLITZ MIDLANDS Affordable oven cleaning specialists. See website or call 0800 773 4870.

painters / decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by HC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

C I PAINTING & DECORATING
Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes.
07890 879 892 01902 650716.

INTERIOR PAINTER AND DECORATOR Friendly and reliable, clean and tidy. Call Deb 01384 829473 / 07502 596395

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING PLANS: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

DOMESTIC PLASTERING

rendering & small building work undertaken. 40 years experience. For a free quote

Call Roy
07887 495726
07583 643932

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS

Local Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

KT REMOVALS

12 years experience
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quote - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/home removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL. Single items/Full loads from £20. OAP discount. Andy 07512 395370, Keith 07545 618231.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers, Blockages 07976 012468

plumbing & heating

Kelron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

SJH PLUMBING AND HEATING Gas safe reg. all plumbing & central heating undertaken. Call for free quote: 07855 020552

CENTRA HEAT

Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in October. T&C apply

01902 845211

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CENTRA HEAT

IT WORKS FOR ME

We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us.

Martin - Centra Heat

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

roofing

S&F ROOFING & GUTTERING

Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all pointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

Arrow Roofing & Guttering

Pitched roofing & lead work.
Flat roofing, rubber & felt.
All repointing.
Free quotes. 01902 820996

ROOFING

main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes, all quotes beaten. 8am-5pm. 01902 722447.

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS

AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE

Mini, midi and large skips
Also available mini digger with driver
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No skips, we load, fast friendly service. 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

AT M&M SKIPS

Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

IT WORKS FOR ME

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!
It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

tree services

S T TREE SERVICES All tree work carried out. Call: 01902 884705 / 07841 842824

upholstery

BILSTON UPHOLSTERY Your suite or chair re-upholstered or repaired. Free Estimates: 01902 404698.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

FOUR KITTENS 3 black and white males, one tabby female, ready in 1 week. £25. 01902 218944.

KITTENS for sale, 9 weeks old, litter trained, wormed. £20. 07765 652167.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
f RGT Wolverhampton
e RGTWolves

5

Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

livestock / poultry

PAIR OF BREEDING Magpie ducks, £12. Indian Runner ducks, mixed colours £7 each. 07855 769127 or 07817 957770.

WHITE GESE males and females for sale £5 each. Purchaser must have pool/grazing. 01902 731640.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6

Property

accommodation to let

A 1/2 BEDROOM FLAT to let Chapel Ash, Finchfield, Wednesfield ORP. DSS ok. 01902 886605.

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1963, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSITS, smart, fully furn. Paget Road, W-ton. CH. 24hr hw. £300pcm all inc. 07768 354354.

HIGH QUALITY Furnished 1 bed flat, Tattenhall area. No DSS. 07976263435 / 01902 700 028.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton. from £85 pwk Single. 256 pwk DSS, inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

THREE BED terrace house to rent. Lower Gornal area. No DSS. Call 01384 252159 or 01384 258309.

mobile homes

LOOK

TINGEDENE FULLY RESIDENTIAL DOUBLE UNIT FIVE ROOM HOME FOR SALE

Two bedrooms, one ensuite. Private gardens and parking. Situated in Telford area.

Call for full details on 07810 044813 or 07801 530894.

TUDOR AMBASSADOR Static caravan with decking area. 1994 model located at Hampton Loade. 35ft x 12ft 2 bed.

Residential site open all year. £13,000 ono
Call David 07514 505818.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price **EVERY TIME!**

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

30 yrs

0800 999 999 6
or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

Any Property Wanted
PROUDLY REGULATED BY:

100% Price Promise

- GENUINE CASH BUYERS
- ANY CONDITION
- FAST RELIABLE SERVICE
- NO COSTS TO YOU
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU

0800 634 7059 24/7
or 0121 487 0300
www.anypropertywanted.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast? **Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS**

We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY *Terms and Conditions apply
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
01384 930 979 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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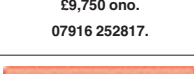
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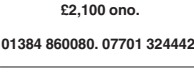
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Baggies head coach Tony Pulis points the way from the sidelines



Pulis during his days as manager of Stoke City

Hard graft key as Pulis reaches grand milestone

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Wilson

"I go into football clubs, try and find out what systems suit those players and try to get the damnedest out of the players."

'OUT of all the family, I was the lucky one, I was the one that got out, so I don't regret anything and I don't want for anything.'

Last Saturday was a landmark one for Albion head coach Tony Pulis as he marked his 1,000th game in management after 24 years at the coalface.

And although he's divided opinion among supporters for the majority of that time, he's also climbed up the divisions to become one of the most recognisable characters in British football.

It's been a long journey from humble beginnings in Pill-gwenilly, South Wales.

"There were eight of us living in a three-bedroom terraced house, and if mum ran out of milk she would go next door and the neighbour would give her a bottle of milk," he reminisced.

"That would happen through the street, through the area, everybody helped everybody.

"I remember the miners' strike in the early 70s, nobody could get coal, or this or that, and people went round houses. If people were short, people would look after them."

That community spirit has stuck with Pulis ever since, and it shines through in his football ethos.

The 58-year-old has witnessed many changes in the game over the past quarter of a century, but there are some constants, like teamwork and hard graft.

Reputation

"I have always instilled – which is so important to me as a manager of people – the DNA get on together," he said. "Everyone was prepared to work together, and everyone either won or lost together."

The former Stoke boss is well aware of his reputation, and the lazy pundits who label his tactics 'anti-football'.

Modern Premier League football is a pantomime, with heroes and villains, and it's all too easy to cast Pulis as the latter because of his 'agricultural' approach.

But if it was that simple then surely the coach who's never been relegated would have been found out by now.

"People say about me and my style of play," he says. "I tell you what I do, I go into football clubs, try and find out

there, the players and the team were all over the place. We managed to get some players in during the window. But during that early time the biggest thing was finding a way to win."

There have also been some memorable scraps. He refused to go into detail about specific incidents – like the infamous naked head-butt on striker James Beattie – but he did say: "If someone has been top cock, I've knocked him down. Some respond, some don't. As Cloughie used to say, there's no room for two big heads in this club."

But football has changed since the days of Brian Clough. There are no more dressing room brawls, no more pinning players against the wall.

"There was a time and place for that, but that was years ago," said Pulis. "There are times when I still lose my temper and go after one or two players but it would never come to that. You couldn't do it."

Money has changed the dynamics of football, and not necessarily for the better. Pulis says players are 'film stars' now, paid extortionate amounts of cash far too young, and it is detrimental to their development as people.

Money

His solution? A day working in the local industry to bring them back down to earth.

"One day at Stoke we took them to the pots," he said. "Show them what kids will have to do when they leave school rather than playing football, being given 30 pairs of boots, being paid a lot of money. They need a reality check."

Although it's been nearly a quarter of a century in various hot seats, Pulis has no plans of retiring any time soon, there's plenty more petrol left in the tank.

The passion still burns away inside, and the defeats still hurt as much.

"I've got a little room which I just go in," he revealed. "There is a just a television in there and my wife brings my food and a glass of wine. Then she leaves me till the next morning."

But the fiery coach has mellowed with age, thanks in part to the arrival of grandchildren. "They are lovely, they bring you back down to earth."

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It's not over says boss after defeat

WILL Pottinger has refused to press the panic button after seeing his Cradley side slip to defeat in Manchester.

Cradley wrapped up their regular leave programme at the new National Speedway Stadium with 50-40 reverse and head into a vital week of Knockout Cup and play-off action.

Boss Pottinger said: "It's never nice to lose but the boys did their best at a track they've never seen before.

"Nathan Greaves came back in as a guest and did a good job for us and Ash Morris was superb as ever.

"I'm looking forward to next week now when Max Clegg is back with us and we can give it a good push.

"Hopefully they've come out of this better riders for the experience.

"It's so vital at this stage in the season, particularly with the play-offs looming, that you don't go dropping points unnecessarily.

Underdogs

"We're looking forward now to the business end of the season. We've got some tough matches ahead with some very good teams.

"We are the underdogs but that's something we're happy to be.

"Our target at the start of the year was at minimum to get into the top four, which we've done, but now we're there we want to go all the way and win the league, rather than end with a damp squib."

Belle Vue 50: Matt Williamson 14, Jack Smith 12+1, Lee Payne 12+1, David Holt 5+2, Tom Woolley 5, Andy Mellish 2+2, Dan Bewley r/r

Cradley 40: Ashley Morris 12, Nathan Greaves 11+1, Bradley Andrews 6+1, Tom Perry 5, Richard Andrews 4+1, Joe Lawlor (No.8) 1+1, Ben Basford 1, James Purchase r/r

Glassboys back to winning ways as Whitby scuppered

Stourbridge 2 Whitby 1

STOURBRIDGE returned to winning ways as goals from Luke Benbow and Leon Broadhurst wrecked Whitby Town's unbeaten start to the season.

The Glassboys struck in both halves to secure their first win in three league games against the high-flying Yorkshire visitors who were left to rue Matthew Tymon's fluffed spot-kick.

The breakthrough arrived on 28 minutes as Benbow latched on to a defence-splitting pass before rounding keeper Shane Bland and slotting into the net.

Town should have hauled themselves level just before half-time when forward Dave Hopson fell under a challenge in Stour's box and referee Matthew Smith pointed to the spot. But Tymon's penalty was blocked by the legs of keeper Matt Gould.

The miss was punished by the hosts on 74 minutes when Broadhurst tapped in from close range after Bland could only palm Drew Canavan's effort into his path. But Town halved the deficit barely a minute later.

Yozza secures place in the Grand Slam

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes has ensured there will be a Black Country presence at the PDC's Grand Slam of Darts in Wolverhampton this year.

'Yozza' secured his debut place at the ninth annual Civic Hall event, from November 12 to 20, through his BDO ranking.

BDO champion Scott Waites is one of four who qualify automatically and is the only thrower from the organisation to have won the Grand Slam, in 2010.

World Championship runner-up Jeff Smith, World Masters winner Glen Durrant and World Trophy titlist Darryl Fitton are also in.

Darts

'Yozza' is only the second Black Country thrower to take part at the Grand Slam after Wolverhampton's Wayne Jones, who is attached to the PDC. The final field will be determined on Monday October 24.

Tickets for the eight-day event are on sale now, by calling the Civic Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or online via www.theticketfactory.com/pdc

Meanwhile, Tipton's throwers led the way over a busy three days of non-televised 'floor' action on the BDO circuit with Jamie Hughes, Scott Baker

and Ian Jones all putting together sterling runs. They travelled to the Spa in Bridlington to take part in the BDO British Open and British Classic.

Hughes first teamed up with James Hurrell for the Open men's pairs competition, where they reached the semi-finals.

The Classic men's singles followed, with Baker and Jones making it through to the group stages.

Baker went out 4-2 to Paul Jennings. 'Whippet' Jones made the semi-finals, but lost 5-3 to Mark McGeeney. Play culminated with the Open men's singles, with Hughes winning his group and Baker reaching the last 16.

It's a peak performance by Sprague

IT was a busy week for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running club with some stand out performances over some unorthodox distances.

Andy Sprague travelled to the Lake District to take part in the 3x3000 ultra, a fell race over three Cumbrian peaks with summits topping 3000 feet, hence the name. The course covered 80k, 50 miles, of undulating terrain over Scafell Pile, Helvellyn and Skiddaw with a total ascent of 4000 metres. Sprague came home in a respectable 19th in 13.08.18.

Closer to home Samantha Hemming was also dipping her toe into the ultra waters by taking part in the JW Ultra, a 30 miler between Stratford-upon-Avon and Bournville finishing in 6.31.39. Dave Hickman finished the Stafford 10k in 45.13 to take 158th place.

The majority of the club's racers were at Sutton Park to take part in the Midland Counties Road Relays, rubbing shoulders against the best in the area. The ladies fielded two teams of four runners, each covering a distance of 4.33k, and the men turned out almost three complete teams of six over their 5.88k legs.

The ladies A team of Helen Tromans (17.26), Sarah Cox (21.58), Jane Campbell (22.19) and Charlotte Tonks (24.27) finished in a total time of 1.26.10 to come 62nd.

The B team of Sarah Krivosic (25.38), Vanessa Morrison (28.20), Leah Robbins (28.03) and Lisa Perkins 28.00 came home in 1.50.01 finishing 83rd.

The men's A team posted a best performance finishing in 47th place, Dave Norman (21.53), Darran Bishop (22.51), Stuart Perkins (21.32), Simon Blizard (23.11), Simon Hughes (22.57) and Matt Biggs (20.42) finishing in a total time of 2.13.06. The B team came home in 2.30.58 to finish 79th.

Yeltz tough it out for point on road

Barwell 0 Halesowen Town 0

YELTZ extended their unbeaten run to three Evo-Stik Premier games with a gritty performance in difficult conditions. They had to contend with a swirling wind, which meant chances were at a premium for both sides, although Halesowen had the first on 23 minutes when Kennedy Digie saw a shot cleared off the line by Declan Towers.

After the break, Malcolm Melvin went close to scoring against his old club but Barwell keeper Max Smith-Varnham was equal to his free-kick. Lee Chilton cheekily tried to lob Smith-Varnham but he got back to tip the ball over.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, September 29, 2016



DK BOURN' TO LOSE AT HOME

DK 28 Bournville 51

VISITORS Bournville scored the opening try, which went unconverted, but Dudley Kingswinford rallied quickly.

Far from being under the cosh, a break in the midfield by Ewan Robinson saw DK establish an attacking platform in the Bournville half.

The pressure should have been relieved by a penalty kick but DK recovered and started a three-quarter move and Liam Marshall was able to stand a defender up and race into the corner to make it 5-5. George Ingram missed the kick.

DK fell behind again after a Bournville penalty from Alex Warner. The lead was extended following a penalty into the scoreboard corner. The forwards combine to set-up a drive at the DK midfield backs which gave them the momentum to score near the DK posts and with the conversion it was 15-5 to the visitors.

DK started to pin Bournville back into their half and forced them into giving away penalties. George Ingram was able to slot two and the score was back to 15-11.

Then DK took lead for the first time, 18-15, but that meant that on the restart Bournville were encamped in the DK 22 with their kicker in the bin and the referee playing time added on.

Ewan Robinson was singled out for going in at the side of a maul and the yellow card followed. Bournville choose to scrummage and drove over the line. To go into the break 20-18 up.

In the opening minutes of the second half a missed tackle allowed Bournville to make a break for a try and the conversion took their lead to 27-18. But DK were back in the game with a further George Ingram penalty, 27-21. DK's defence started to put in some big hits with Mitch Grealey introducing himself in the midfield and props Rich Kelley and Arran Hudson well to the fore.

In the final quarter DK's defensive effort took its toll and Bournville took complete control of the game scoring three tries to make the score 51-21.

Though the final word went to DK when Liam Marshall went on a great solo run from 22 to 22, leaving several defenders in his wake. When he was finally brought down he was able to offload and James Jefferson took the ball under the posts. Duncan Tompkins added the extras.



Make a break for it - Joe Tighe evades the defender as Dudley Kingswinford take on Bournville

Podium places for Black Country Triathletes

BLACK Country Triathletes took podium slots at this weekend's Ludlow Sprint triathlon, which involved a 400m swim, a 26km bike and a 6.25km run.

Paul Rogers was first home for the club in a time of 1:15:19 which saw him finish third overall and be first Male Vet50.

Keith Bate took first place

in his age group, Male Vet60, finishing in 1:25:09 with Chris Pedley coming home in 1:34:11 to come in third. Chris Wood finished seventh overall in 1:16:04 which put him in third place in the Male Vet40 age group.

Also racing were Tim Lake, who finished in 1:22:21, Scott

Palmer 1:24:50, Lauren Evans 1:29:34, Gary Hickman 1:35:07, Edward Horgan 1:37:20, Shameer Gopal 1:45:38 and Lorraine Gaytten in 2:00:34.

The juniors were on form at Shipston-on-Stour in the Stratford Aquathlon. Joel Humpage was third for his age, 15:22 for a 300m swim and a 2.75k run.

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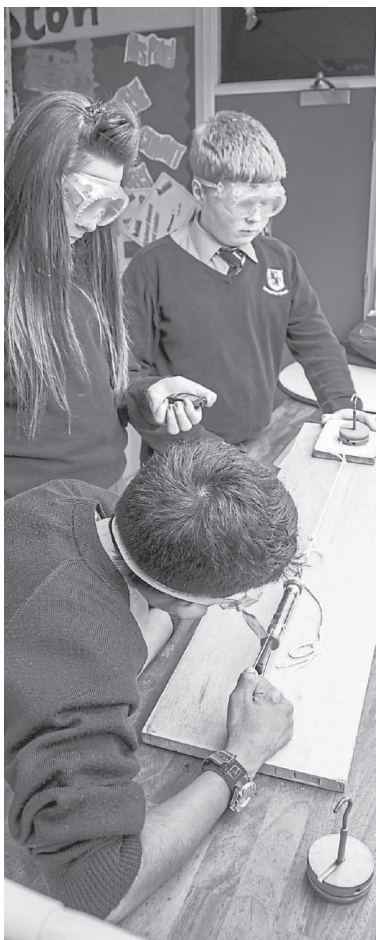


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Dormston School

Respect, Commit, Achieve


Dormston
SCHOOL
Respect | Commit | Achieve

Tel: 01384 816395 www.dormston.dudley.sch.uk
Mill Bank, Sedgley, Dudley DY3 1SN



Headteacher
Ben Stitchman

The Dormston Experience

"This is a rapidly improving school"- OFSTED November 2014

Dormston School had much to celebrate during the last academic year but perhaps the sentence above has been the most significant. Over the last two years the school in Sedgely has changed dramatically. Headteacher, Ben Stitchman explained what has happened.

"Three years ago the Senior Management Team and Governors decided that it was time to refocus the school on the core principles of any successful school. This is why our Attendance, Behaviour, Classroom, Ethos, Extra - Curricular and Environment strategy was developed. It was our belief that if we could be outstanding in all these areas we would have an outstanding school."

Dormston's Ethos is very simple - "The best for every child" but it encapsulates everything that the school believes in. The core message being that every pupil deserves to be given the support and encouragement to develop into a successful and happy person. Dormston is a school that firmly believes in its vision and is working tirelessly to achieve it.

Dormston is a happy and calm environment. Attendance stands at over 95% for the second year running, making Dormston one of the best attended schools in Dudley.

"Attendance is a really key indicator of how a school is doing. The more children attend the more they learn but it also tells parents how children feel about a school," explained Mr Stitchman.

The school's latest OFSTED Report graded Behaviour and Leadership as Good, we are sure that outstanding is well within our grasp, demonstrating just how much things have changed in a short period of time. However, this is just the start of the school's journey. When visiting the school you can feel a very real determination to achieve the school's ethos.

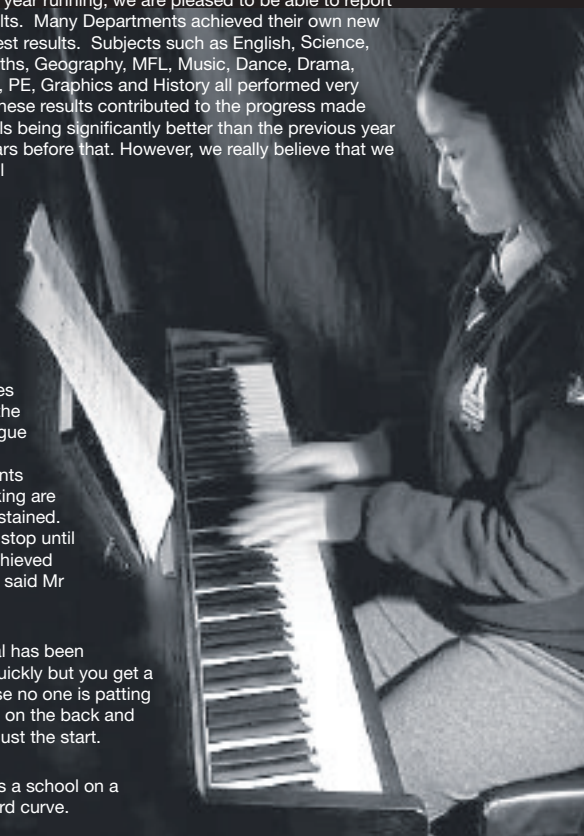
The Results Day in August was a great day for the school and

most importantly for the pupils who collected their results. For the second year running, we are pleased to be able to report record results. Many Departments achieved their own new personal best results. Subjects such as English, Science, History, Maths, Geography, MFL, Music, Dance, Drama, Computing, PE, Graphics and History all performed very strongly. These results contributed to the progress made by the pupils being significantly better than the previous year and the years before that. However, we really believe that we can and will do better this year and in the years that follow.

"We are not interested in quick fixes or gaming the school League Tables. The improvements we are making are real and sustained. We will not stop until we have achieved our vision," said Mr Stitchman.

A great deal has been achieved quickly but you get a strong sense no one is patting themselves on the back and that this is just the start.

Dormston is a school on a rapid upward curve.



A Culture of Respect

Dormston pupils are given very clear guidance on the standards expected from them as members of the Dormston School Community.

At the heart of Dormston School is our highly effective Pastoral system. Every pupil is allocated to one of four houses (Avon, Derwent, Severn and Trent). Run by a Head and Deputy Head of House, the essence of the House System is to provide a safe and secure environment for every single pupil to make sure they feel content that they can achieve their potential.

Our thriving House System has changed the ethos of the school bringing pupils together to participate in competitions, charity events and other whole school events. Every House has its own identity and strategies to succeed which is supported by Year 11 pupil leadership

teams. The leadership team support pupils across the year groups by mentoring, leading various activities and sporting clubs whilst helping pupils to celebrate achievements and setting high standards for others to aim for.

We believe this provides an excellent platform to build on and develop many important values. Being part of the House System offers, friendship, a sense of belonging as well as the opportunity for individual achievement and competition.

Pupils respond positively to these high standards and have a sense of pride and achievement as they develop both their educational knowledge and emotional intelligence. Through these well-established systems we demonstrate our commitment to our pupils' welfare and their overall enjoyment of school life.



A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.



LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM *& Beyond*

A well balanced curriculum combined with inspiring teaching allows learning to flourish and ignites a pupils thirst for knowledge. We believe that there are no limits to what a young person can achieve.

We believe strongly at Dormston in setting our pupils high and aspirational targets to ensure that they meet their full potential. We pride ourselves on establishing and maintaining excellent pupil/teacher relationships whilst actively promoting self-discipline and independent learning via homework and private study.

Our curriculum places emphasis on the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. Pupils also have the opportunity to study a broad curriculum including The Arts, Humanities, Languages and Technology. The school's curriculum has been designed to allow all pupils to discover their gifts and talents as well as develop the key employability skills they will require later in life.

Extra-curricular activities are also an important part of school life which can further enhance learning and personal development. We operate a range of school activities for pupils to get involved with aimed at meeting a variety of pupil hobbies and interests.

Extra curricular activities include:

- ✓ The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme;
- ✓ Various sporting teams; football, athletics, rounders, netball, basketball, hockey as well as club activities such as badminton, trampolining and fitness;
- ✓ Fencing
- ✓ Science Club
- ✓ School Orchestra;
- ✓ Singing Group;
- ✓ Computer Club;
- ✓ Arts Clubs (including school production)
- ✓ Technology Clubs
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Masterchef
- ✓ Acting / performance classes
- ✓ Cycling club
- ✓ Running club

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Across the school year there are numerous opportunities for pupils to get involved in a variety of enrichment activities including residential to; Outdoor Activity Centres, France, Germany and Ski trips as well as a variety of day trips to places such as Blists Hill, the Science Museum, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwick castle and to see West End shows.

At the end of each school year we celebrate all the pupils hard work and successes by holding an Activity Week where all pupils take part in a variety of different visits, activities and/or residential and our annual Sports Day which forms part of the House competitions that run throughout the year. There are also a variety of inter-house sporting competitions that take place across the academic year in Football, Badminton, Netball, Basketball and Rounders. This is in support of the many Sports teams that are run within school that compete in the Dudley and West Midlands competitions. The school has regularly had success in these competitions. Lunchtime and after school clubs are also run for those who wish to participate in a less competitive environment.



Tell me and I
forget, teach
me and I
remember,
involve me
and I learn.

Focus on Literacy

Literacy is a key focus for all staff within Dormston.

There are various activities and challenges that take place across the school to promote the benefits of reading and to show how it can be enjoyable for all. Promoting the importance of reading is a high priority for us and we hold a number of events to encourage reading through assemblies, visiting authors, celebrating World Book Day, and regular Drop Everything and Read sessions across the school. There are also various visits that take place such as Birmingham Central Library, local libraries and theatre trips to see books brought to life on the stage. There has also been a change to English assessments, with increased challenges and half termly exam style assessments using the GCSE examination question stems they will eventually face in Year 11. Our pupils have risen to the challenge of these new assessments and we have seen lots of positive progress throughout Years 7, 8 and 9.



Outstanding Facilities

Providing pupils with an outstanding environment which they can enjoy and respect is crucial.

Having access to facilities and an environment that enhances the learning opportunities of our pupils is therefore a key priority. Over the past 2 years major renovations have taken place across the school site. Recent investments have included developing social spaces including a coffee bar and lunch area for our Year 11 pupils in our Atrium, a completely refurbished dining room as well as

an additional takeaway food pod in the redesigned Quad area. Investment has also been made developing the sporting areas with a brand new Netball Court and state of the art 4G football pitch as well as cutting edge Art rooms and Food Technology rooms that rival Masterchef.

Our 350 seat Theatre and Pupil Learning Centre are also other features we have to offer as well as 7 computer suites which contain brand new ICT equipment. We believe that creating a conducive environment for learning plays a crucial role in helping pupils adopt our ethos by giving them a sense of pride in themselves and the school that they attend.



A school at the heart of
the community.